

Poll tax shock for Thatcher

Bring back the rating system, say 35 per cent

By Nicholas Wood and Robin Oakley

A RETURN to domestic rates is the most popular solution among the public to the dilemma the Government faces over how to relieve the political pain inflicted by the poll tax, according to an exclusive MORI poll for *The Times*.

In the wake of the confusion generated by last week's disclosures of the depth of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's concern about the reception accorded to the community charge, the survey shows that 35 per cent of people would prefer to go back to the old rating system, which she and her ministers have maintained is now discredited.

Equally surprising is the finding that nearly as many people — 29 per cent — believe that a local income tax would be the best way of financing local government — the policy espoused solely by the Liberal Democrats among the main political parties.

However, both the poll tax and Labour's alternative — the "roof tax" combining property values with ability to pay — remain relatively unpopular. Only 12 per cent of the electorate favour the community charge and only 15 per cent would prefer a roof tax.

The disclosures, making further grim reading for Mrs Thatcher and her ministers, come three days before the council elections in which more than 5,000 seats are at stake across the country, and the Conservatives face losses of 350 of their 1,570 seats on

current voting intentions. She will not be encouraged either, by MORI's findings that Labour enjoys a 34-point lead among those certain to vote in those elections, that her popularity among Tory supporters is at an all-time low at 38 per cent dissatisfied and that Labour is enjoying its highest-ever level of support among trade unionists.

The town hall results will be seen as a national verdict on the poll tax and the Prime Minister's increasingly uncertain hold on her party.

If the Conservatives do as badly as predicted, particularly in the high-profile Tory boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Bradford, which have all set their community charge at rock-bottom levels, speculation about her leadership and the need for even more drastic surgery on the poll tax than envisaged in Whitehall, is bound to intensify.

The Conservatives have invested great hopes in the finding of a private poll that 71 per cent of people agreed with the principle of a poll tax paid by every adult. There are also signs from opinion polls and Tory canvass returns that the results in the three councils may buck the trend.

Yesterday, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tory chairman, signalled his recognition that the fate of the community charge and the Prime Minister's leadership could be decided in these three areas.

He has ordered an all-out effort in the three councils, all held by wafer-thin Tory majorities, in order to justify the Government's case that it is the level of poll-tax charges, not the underlying principle of a flat-rate charge, that has angered the electorate and torpedoed the Conservatives' standing in the opinion polls.

At a key meeting today with his senior staff, Mr Baker is expected to order a newspaper advertising blitz in the run-up to polling on Thursday. This will be backed by a political broadcast on the eve of polling highlighting the case that "Conservative councils cost you less". Mr Baker will also lead intensive campaigning by senior ministers over the next three days, focusing on the three low-spending Tory councils and neighbouring Labour authorities with high poll-tax levels.

He will be in Leeds and Bradford tomorrow and will wind up the campaign in Wandsworth in Abbotsley Road, where residents on one

side of the street pay £148 to Wandsworth council — the lowest in the country — while those living opposite pay £548 to Labour-run Lambeth.

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, will seek to make the same point today in Westminster, contrasting its £195 bill with next-door Camden's £534.

Other ministers planning to campaign in London include Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Tom King and Mr Chris Patten. In what should prove an intriguing spectacle, they will be joined by Mr Michael Heseltine, who will take to the streets in Hackney and Islington tomorrow.

The former Cabinet minister vetoed the poll tax when Secretary of State for the Environment and condemned it when it went through Parliament. Much of his popularity on the Tory benches as a possible replacement for Mrs Thatcher derives from this opposition, but he will need to deploy all his skills to avoid the charge of disloyalty when he takes to the hustings. Mr Heseltine acknowledges that the future of the tax will be affected by voting in the three boroughs.

Today, Mr Neil Kinnock will seek to exploit the "shambles" of the Government's attempts to reassure voters and Tory MPs that it is carrying out a fundamental review, possibly to the point of introducing a Bill.

Yesterday Labour and SLD leaders demanded that the Government "come clean" before voters go to the polls.

Senior Conservative sources maintained, however, that the publicity surrounding the Prime Minister's resolve to make changes to the community charge, amplified by Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd, her Parliamentary Private Secretary, in private conversations with Tory MPs, could make a "decisive contribution" to Thursday's poll by defusing the determination of former Tory supporters to register a protest vote.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Opposition campaign co-ordinator, said: "It is not good enough for Government sources to hint that there may — or may not — be changes in the pipeline on the poll tax. Voters deserve to know now."

Mr Paddy Ashdown, who will be cheered by the level of support for a local income tax, called for a three-way televised debate on the issue.

MORI poll details, page 7

Turkey seizes more Iraq-bound pipes

By Geoff King

CUSTOMS officials in Turkey said yesterday that they had seized two more lorry loads of steel pipes suspected of being parts of a large Iraqi "super-gun".

The vehicles were being held at Kapikule on the border with Bulgaria while the pipes were examined to see if they had military applications.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Mr Peter Todoroff, one of the detained Bulgarian lorry drivers, as saying: "My job is to take these (pipes) to Iraq." British Customs said that they had not been expecting any further

shipments on route for Iraq and knew nothing about the lorries.

Whitehall officials have confirmed that Mrs Thatcher has raised the issue of Mr Paul Ashwell, the lorry driver being held in Greece, with Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek Prime Minister, during the European Community summit in Dublin.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour trade and industry spokesman, called on the Government to tell "the full truth" of what it knew about the gun to help Mr Ashwell, who was charged in Greece last week.



How to beat the blockade: Protesters riding through the centre of Vilnius yesterday in a show of defiance against Moscow's sanctions

Britain's heatwave puts Spain in shade

By Lin Jenkins

THE first hosepipe ban heralded the true start of summer as southern England basked in temperatures higher than those in Spanish holiday resorts.

Temperatures in London yesterday reached 22 degrees Centigrade (72 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with 17 degrees Centigrade (63 Fahrenheit) on the rainy Costa del Sol. The highest temperature in London in April last year was 16 degrees Centigrade (61 Fahrenheit).

Most places south of a line from south-west Wales to the northern Wash had a hot, sunny day. While the unusually fine weather brought thousands of daytrippers on to the roads, water authorities and farmers voiced fears of another serious drought.

Much of England had a third or less of the normal annual rainfall last month, and in parts of the South-east the figure has fallen below 10 per cent. The figures for April are unlikely to show much improvement.

In parts of Kent, where the hosepipe ban comes into effect on Friday just weeks after the last one was lifted, reservoirs, rivers and ground water levels are at record lows. Bevel Water reservoir is less than 70 per cent full, at a time when the level should be well over 90 per cent.

In the area around Gravesend, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, and the Isle of Sheppey, where 170,000 homes are affected by the ban, 70 per cent of supplies come from underground sources.

"The problem is that we have had a dry couple of years and we are simply not getting the rainfall to replenish supplies. We need an awful lot of rain to solve the problem this year and to prevent it happening again next year," the Kent division of Southern Water said.

The dry summer of last year, coupled with low winter rainfall in some areas, means there will be further drought restrictions if the weather remains dry.

In north Kent, March rain-
Continued on page 24, col 3

Moscow and Vilnius edge towards a deal

From Anatol Lieven, Riga, Latvia

THE Soviet and Lithuanian Governments moved closer to an agreement yesterday after President Gorbachev's press spokesman said that Moscow would insist only on the "freezing", not the "revocation", of Lithuanian independence.

The Kremlin spokesman's remarks, made in response to a French and West German suggestion to this effect, were welcomed by President Landsbergis of Lithuania. The Soviet economic sanctions against Lithuania were also apparently eased yesterday, according to reports from the Aotias glue and fertilizer plant at Jonava. Managers there said they had been told that most of their normal supplies of natural gas, their basic raw material, will be restored to day. Supplies will be raised from 0.6 million cubic metres daily to 3 million, or two-thirds of the normal total. The workers laid off at Jonava last week will now return to work.

The Soviet move seems in accordance not just with the general easing of tension, but also with what has been a general Soviet policy of trying to keep "all union" factories, in Lithuania going by continuing to provide them with essential raw materials. One reason for this has been that the factories in question often play an essential part in production processes across the Soviet Union. The factories, in return, effectively decided to ignore Lithuanian government orders and continue to export via their ministries in Moscow.

President Landsbergis's comment that the proposal to "suspend the reinforcement of the decision on independence of March 11 is constructive and worthy of careful consideration" suggests that an agreement may now be near.

There had been suggestions from Lithuania for almost two weeks, in response to unofficial suggestions from Moscow, that the republic would be willing to suspend the implementation of some or all of the laws stemming from the declaration of independence. The key ones from the Soviet

point of view concern Lithuanian military service, Soviet property in Lithuania and Soviet citizens within Lithuania.

A question still hanging over the prospect of compromise is whether Moscow may still demand a suspension of the declaration of independence, or whether it will content itself with something that can be called a "suspension of the independence process".

Another question raised would be that of the effects of a compromise on Latvia and Estonia, whose huge Russian populations, some think, make a continued formal link with the Soviet Union almost inevitable. A partial climb-down by Vilnius may strengthen the hands of those Latvian deputies suggesting that the expected Latvian declaration of independence later this week should be accompanied by an offer to Moscow of a loose "confederation".

Soviet future, page 12

Another hostage 'to be freed'

From Juan Carlos Gammacio, west Beirut

UNIDENTIFIED Muslim extremists yesterday said they would free another American hostage by tomorrow night. A brief statement delivered to a Beirut news agency, along with photographs of Mr Frank Herbert Reed, aged 57, said that the teacher would be freed to convey "a message to President Bush".

The unsigned announcement was the first news about Mr Reed since he was kidnapped driving to play golf near Beirut airport on September 9, 1986. Four days later, the obscure "Arab Revolutionary Cells-Omar Mukhtar Forces" claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The announcement, a surprise in the wake of hostile comments about the US by a radical Shia Muslim leader in Lebanon and the hardline *Jumhuri Islami* newspaper in Tehran, was made exactly one week after Mr Robert Polhill was freed by the pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine".

Soviet future, page 12

View on royalty comes under fire

By Michael Binyon and Nicholas Wood

MRS Thatcher's critics yesterday rounded on her warning at the Dublin summit that the British people feared moves towards European political union could jeopardise the position of the Queen.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, insisted that as a constitutional monarchy, devoid of powers, the Royal Family had nothing to fear from the changes being discussed in the EC.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Mrs Thatcher seems worried not so much about Queen Elizabeth II but about Queen Margaret the Pretender."

Both Mr Heath and Mr Kaufman argued that the five other EC countries with constitutional monarchs saw no threat to their existing

arrangements from political union.

EC foreign ministers will this week begin drawing up a report they are to present to the next Dublin meeting at the end of June, spelling out what is meant by political union.

In two months they must list all the options on co-ordinating defence and foreign policies, and how the powers of the Brussels Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be altered.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there had now to be "a coming together" of "the declarations and the realities".

Pace of EC union, page 10
Summit communiqué, page 10
Chair Cruise O'Brien, page 14
Leading article, page 15

INSIDE

BT holding loses \$550m

British Telecom is showing a paper loss of \$550 million (£337 million) on an investment in McCaw Cellular Communications, the largest US mobile telephone operator. McCaw shares have fallen from \$47.50 to \$25.25, valuing BT's stake at \$902 million. Page 25

Denning attack

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, in a letter to *The Times*, has attacked the Court of Appeal decision to quash the convictions of the Winchester Three. Page 3
Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15

Prison delay

Charges against the rioters at the Strangeways prison may take two years to come to trial, sources have indicated. A huge police investigation has begun into the 25-day siege at the Manchester jail. Page 3

Slovo's view

The African National Congress would grab at any way forward that involved no bloodshed. Mr Joe Slovo, the secretary-general of the South African Communist Party said. Page 11

Hendry leads

Stephen Hendry was leading Jimmy White 14-10 in the final of the world Embassy snooker championship yesterday, needing a further four frames to become the youngest player to win the world title. Page 40

Forest's cup

Nottingham Forest retained the Littlewoods Cup, beating Oldham Athletic, of the second division, 1-0 at Wembley. Jemson scored the winning goal. Page 40

INDEX

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Arts | 18 |
| Births, marriages, deaths | 17 |
| Court & Social | 16 |
| Crosswords | 22-24 |
| Education | 21 |
| Entertainments | 22 |
| Leading articles | 15 |
| Letters | 16 |
| Obituary | 16 |
| Preview | 22 |
| TV & Radio | 23 |
| Weather | 24 |



Kasparov: "One mistake, then it was over"

Chess computer beats a human champion

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

SINCE the ingenious Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, engineer to the imperial court of Vienna in the mid-18th century, constructed his mechanical chess-playing Turk, it has been the dream of every inventor of chess machines to defeat the world's best human player. In a simultaneous display in Munich last week, this dream finally came true when the Mephisto-Portorose Chess Computer took a game off Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet Union's world chess champion from 1975 to 1985 and again the challenger for the title this year.

Such simultaneous displays are extremely popular, and computers are featuring increasingly in them. Nevertheless, a computer has never before beaten a player who has held the world championship in any chess game under

whatever circumstances. Karpov's loss is thus historic, providing evidence of the advances being made by chess-playing computers.

Karpov took on 24 opponents at once in the Munich display. The computer was the only opponent to beat him. Although the Mephisto-Portorose machine is manufactured in Germany, the successful chess-playing program was written by Mr Richard Lang, a British scientist who lives and works at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The program has several times won the computer world chess championship.

Asked for a comment at the end of the game, the defeated Karpov replied: "It was the same as against (the world champion, Garry) Kasparov. I made one mistake and then it was over."

The Mephisto Chess micro-computer is a commercial model available in shops. Hitherto they have seemed less

threatening to human champions than the great American university mainframe computers, such as Hitech and Deep Thought, which have incredible number-crunching abilities.

Last October in New York Kasparov, aged 26 and also from the Soviet Union, faced Deep Thought, a machine partially funded by the Pentagon and capable of visualizing a million chess positions every second, which had earlier beaten Bent Larsen, a grandmaster. Kasparov avenged Larsen's humiliation by the crushing score of 2-0, but admitted that it was "uncanny and nerve-racking" playing against a ghost-like unseen opponent.

"I can't visualize living with the knowledge that a computer is stronger than the human mind," he said, referring to Larsen's defeat. "I had to challenge Deep Thought for this match to protect the human race."

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THE WEST LANCs PROJECT

Britain may have to make 'green' reports to the UN

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN may find itself bound to make annual reports for the United Nations on its environmental progress after Europe's first international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth".

The idea will be put forward at the conference, which begins in Bergen, Norway, on May 8, by the Norwegian government as a way of giving teeth to the wide-ranging environmental commitments expected to be made by 34 nations from Western and Eastern Europe as well as the United States and Canada.

It may give Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, a new weapon in his ambitious but apparently faltering attempt at the "greening" of Whitehall. The commitments in the conference's final declaration

are likely to include several of the most important projects Mr Patten hoped to include in the forthcoming environment White Paper but which have been running into opposition inside Whitehall.

They include environmental systems of national accounting to show "green GDP" as well as the merely financial balance sheet, a determined campaign on energy efficiency, and a public commitment to "reduce the harmful effects of the transport sector".

Mrs Kristin Hille Valla, Norway's environment minister, said: "We will propose annual reports for two reasons. It is important each country should control itself and keep a record of what it is doing; and it is important to be able to compare national records because pollution knows no national bound-

aries." The conference, which will last until May 16, is the European follow-up to the Brundtland Report, the influential 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, until last year Prime Minister of Norway.

The report said that only economic growth could prevent the countries of the Third World from falling further into poverty, but it had to be development that was "sustainable", growth that did not destroy the environment. The only way to achieve it, the report said, was to integrate environmental considerations into all economic policy.

Next week's conference will seek a detailed commitment to the principles of sustainable development from the industrialized nations, in advance of the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil.

At that conference, it is hoped that the Third World and the industrialized countries will agree on how to proceed with economic growth without, for example, destroying the rain forests of the Amazon.

● The Government's forthcoming White Paper on the Environment must transform the balance of policy in favour of the environment right across Whitehall, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Christopher Warman writes).

It must include not only the Department of the Environment, but agricultural, transport, energy and economic policies, the council urges in a submission to the department published today.

"All need radical redirection to meet the environmental challenges of the future," it says. "Vague rhetoric, exhortation and limited gestures will not do."

The submission, entitled "From White Paper to Green Future", highlights a need for a commitment to countryside protection, which, it says, should be at the heart of any new environmental policy.

Palumbo takes City site ruling to Lords

By Jamie Dettmer

THE long-running dispute over the redevelopment of the Mappin & Webb site of Victorian buildings in the City of London took another surprising turn yesterday after it emerged that Mr Peter Palumbo, in his role as property developer, had petitioned the House of Lords in an attempt to overturn a recent legal ruling blocking his plans.

Mr Palumbo, whose £140million scheme for the site has been described by the Prince of Wales as resembling a "1930s wireless", petitioned the House of Lords on Friday seeking leave to appeal against last month's Court of Appeal decision, which found against the development. The move has surprised his opponents, including the pressure group Save Britain's Heritage.

Last month's Court of Appeal ruling quashed a decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, to allow the demolition

of eight listed buildings on the site, which is just opposite the Mansion House. The judges refused the Department of the Environment leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

In their ruling, they said that Mr Ridley had not given adequate reasons for finding in favour of the development. They said his decision was "fatally flawed". Mr Ridley gave the go-ahead for the development after a public inquiry into the plans. The inspector had said the development "might just be a masterpiece".

Mr Palumbo said after the Court of Appeal ruling that he would seek further detailed legal advice. He had a month to decide to petition the Lords.

Mr Palumbo's petition argues that the Court of Appeal's ruling was wrong and that the issues raised are of general public interest.



Dr Oliphant Jackson, chairman of the British Chelonians Group, a charity registered to conserve tortoises, terrapins and turtles, focusing his camera on the underside of a tortoise as part of a computer record. Each plastron, on the underside is known, varies in colour and

patterning in much the same way as fingerprints, and the group has combined with the Conservation Research Group in Cambridge to make a register to identify lost or stolen tortoises or illegal imports, and to help in breeding programmes and research projects.

Health care urged for teachers

By David Tytler, Education Editor

TIME off should be given to women teachers for cancer screening and more attention should be paid to looking after mothers during pregnancy and on their return to the classroom, a teachers' union says today.

Guidelines published by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers call for the Government, education authorities and governors to begin a health care campaign for women teachers.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, its general secretary, said: "The union appreciates the effects of increased workloads on all teachers, but it is particularly concerned that the many women who take on the dual role of teacher and home provider/carer will neglect their health unless positive health care programmes are introduced."

The union points out that the falling population will mean more women being required to work. More than

12 million are expected to be in work by 1995. In primary schools the majority of teachers are women. In 1986 7,775 women applied for primary teacher training compared to 942 men.

The latest figures also show that ill health among teachers is increasing. One local authority reports that days lost through sickness have doubled to 22,000 in the past four

Education, page 21

PR men come to rescue of ministers

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

INSTEAD of shooting the messenger because of the unpopularity of the policy or message, high-profile Cabinet ministers are to be accorded the services of leading advertising and public relations executives in an attempt to make their utterances more acceptable.

Three senior ministers have agreed to receive specialist advice about communications strategy, a fourth is considering the idea and others are expected to follow. The move, which comes as the Conservatives continue their plunge in the opinion polls, follows a dinner hosted by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tory party chairman, attended by leaders of the advertising and PR firmament. The advisers are giving their services free of charge.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, perceived as being less than foot perfect in his handling of the prison disturbances, is receiving advice from Mr Tim Bell, a former director of Saatchi & Saatchi who is now deputy chairman of Lowe Howard Spink and Bell. Mr Bell, reputed to be the Prime Minister's favourite advertising man, is no stranger to politics — especially when politicians are facing a crisis.

Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, who was involved in controversy over supposedly allowing white parents to take their children out of black schools, is to have the services of Mr Robin Wright, chairman of Wright Collins, Rutherford and Scott.

The third adviser appointed so far is Mr John Banks, chairman of Young and Rubicam, who will help Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, who lost the publicity battle in the ambulance dispute.

Mr Brendan Bruce, director of communications at Conservative Central Office and a former advertising industry man, explained yesterday: "It was my feeling that there were a lot of people in the communications business — in PR, advertising, direct mail and the creative side — that wanted to help and were Conservatives and felt communication could be improved."

80 MPs call for more sex education

AN ALL-PARTY group of 80 MPs is calling for better sex education and family planning services to reduce the number of abortions from the present level of 184,000 a year (Nicholas Wood writes).

A Commons motion has been signed by the broad coalition of MPs who successfully beat off last week's attempt to reduce the upper limit for legal terminations to 22 weeks.

It calls for better sex education in schools, greater publicity for contraception, better family planning services and improved NHS abortion clinics to reduce delays leading to late terminations.

Miss Harriet Harman, a Labour health spokeswoman, said she expects more MPs to sign the motion today.

House sales low

House sales in the first quarter of the year totalled 323,784, or 5 per cent below the same period of 1989 and 23 per cent below those of the 1988 first quarter, the Adams Residential Property Index said in a new survey. They were the worst figures since 1983, it said.

Peace rally

Thousands of people attended a peace rally in Downpatrick, Co Down, yesterday to pay their last respects to four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers murdered in a huge IRA bomb explosion. The march, led by Protestant and Catholic clergy, was the biggest peace rally for some years.

Spending chore

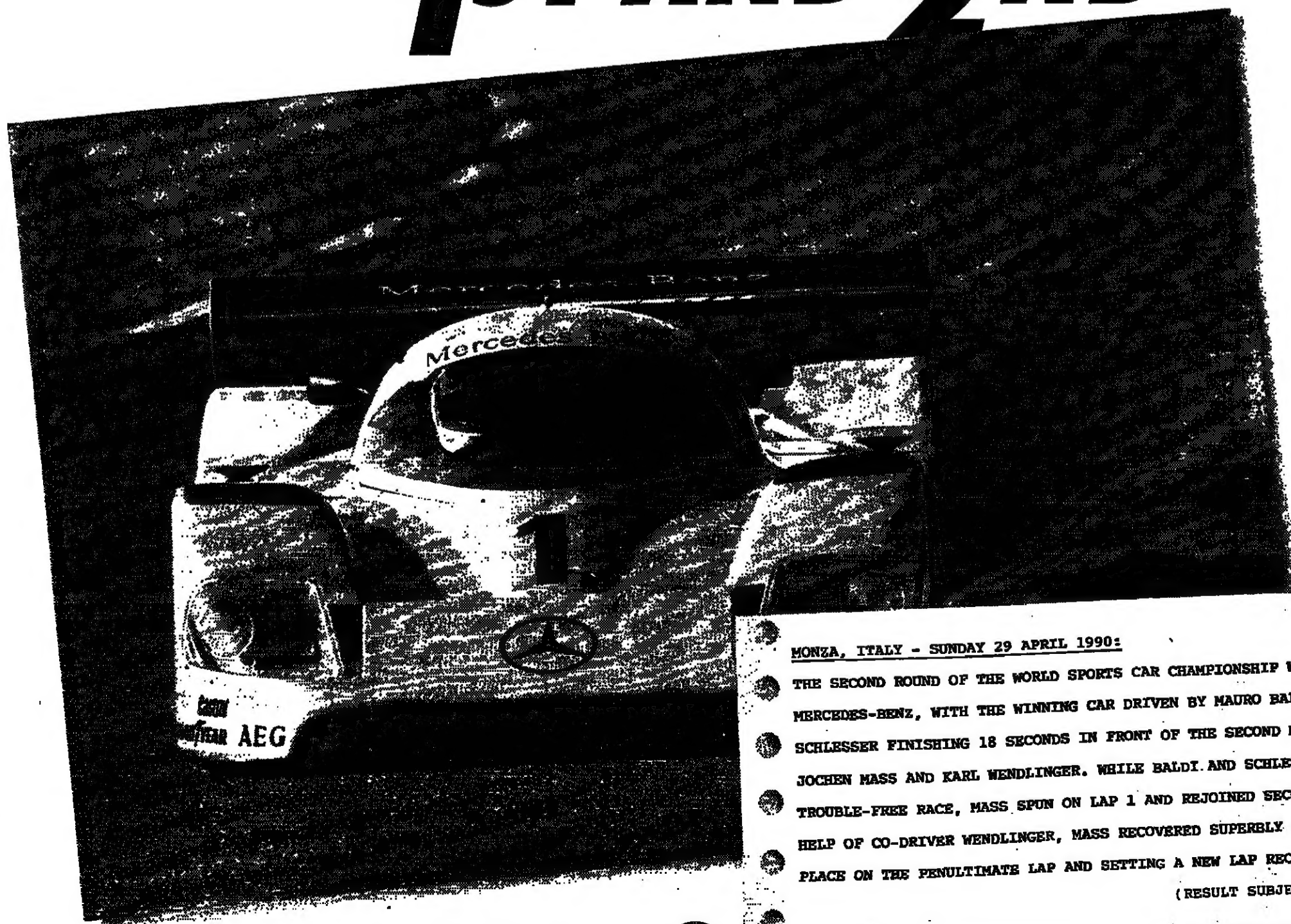
The Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances, a 100-year-old charity with the Queen as its patron, is to hold an emergency meeting to find ways of spending some of its £7.5 million bank balance. Money is used generously but interest keeps swelling its coffers.

CORRECTION

Barking and Dagenham Council asks us to make clear that the spelling error in an advertisement mentioned in the Diary (April 10) was made not by it, but by Times Newspapers, and also that the council was never part of the lra.

MERCEDES-BENZ

1ST AND 2ND



MONZA, ITALY - SUNDAY 29 APRIL 1990:

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE WORLD SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP WAS DOMINATED BY MERCEDES-BENZ, WITH THE WINNING CAR DRIVEN BY MAURO BALDI AND JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSER FINISHING 18 SECONDS IN FRONT OF THE SECOND MERCEDES C 11 OF JOCHEN MASS AND KARL WENDLINGER. WHILE BALDI AND SCHLESSER ENJOYED A TROUBLE-FREE RACE, MASS SPUN ON LAP 1 AND REJOINED SECOND LAST. WITH THE HELP OF CO-DRIVER WENDLINGER, MASS RECOVERED SUPERBLY RETAKING SECOND PLACE ON THE PENULTIMATE LAP AND SETTING A NEW LAP RECORD IN THE PROCESS. (RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

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Jail rioters may not go to trial for two years

HOMER Office sources have indicated that it could be two years before charges against the rioters at the Springwells prison are made. The news came as a huge police investigation began into the 25-day siege at the Manchester jail.

The sources pointed out that 41 prisoners charged with riot and damage after a much smaller disturbance at the Risley remand centre, in Cheshire a year ago, were still to be brought to trial, and indicated that it could be two years before the Springwells inmates would be able to be brought before a court.

At the same time it was revealed that the Home Office was facing a £1 million claim for compensation over the riot. Scores of home-owners and business people living and working around the Victorian prison are seeking damages for disrupted lives and lost trade.

The police investigation into the affair, which ended last Wednesday, will include interviewing each of the 1,650 prisoners who were in the jail when the riot broke on Sunday, April 1.

'Court error' led to boy's prison night

AN MP is calling for a Home Office inquiry into how boy aged 12 came to spend a night on remand in Pentonville prison (Stewart Tendler writes).

The boy, accused of stealing a purse, was eventually moved to a youth custody centre.

Yesterday Mr. Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Salford, said he planned to raise the case with Mr. David Waddington, the Home Secretary. "I find it breathtaking that such a bungle could have occurred and I shall be demanding to know all the circumstances of this incident," he said.

The boy, said to look younger than his actual years, appeared before magistrates on a Saturday last month. He was remanded in custody and taken to Pentonville prison, which acts as a remand centre for central London at weekends. Prison staff realized the boy must be very young and placed him overnight in the prison's hospital wing. On the Sunday the boy was taken to the youth custody centre at Feltham.

According to the Home Office yesterday, there may have been some confusion in the magistrates' court about the boy's age.

A spokesman said: "In normal circumstances or on any other day he would have gone to Feltham. He was kept in the hospital wing overnight without any great distress."

Hawk takes the City's pigeons under his wing



Dignity stressed in guidelines on care of elderly

By JBI Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

NEW guidance to safeguard standards of care in residential homes for the elderly after the implementation of community care reforms next April is to be launched by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, this morning.

The document from the Social Services Inspectorate, has been sent to all local authorities to help the new independent inspection units now being set-up to monitor and safeguard care in both private, voluntary and local authority homes.

Under the reforms local authorities will take financial responsibility for the care of the elderly in the community and decide whether they need residential care, which they can buy from the private sector or provide themselves. Authorities will also be required to set up independent units to inspect all types of residential homes. At present councils only have to inspect private homes.

Much of the advice refers to earlier papers calling for greater choice for residents over lifestyle and care, the need to safeguard a resident's rights, and the aim of fostering independence, privacy and dignity.

No residents should be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment or forced to undertake any tasks against their will, the report says. People should have the freedom to withdraw from care and treatment. Family and private life should be respected and sexual relationships

Equipment shortage hits BSB's big launch

By Richard Evans Media Editor

THE second phase of the satellite television revolution began last night when British Satellite Broadcasting started beaming programmes on five new channels direct to viewers' homes.

However, BSB suffered the same fate as Sky Television when it launched 14 months ago — and many could not watch the output. BSB had hoped to have about 50,000 receiver kits in the shops by yesterday but said it was let down by suppliers.

Around 300,000 homes with cable TV were, however, able to tune in. The £1.3 billion venture has suffered more than its fair share of technical, business and internal problems and yesterday's launch was six months later than planned.

Mr. Anthony Simmonds, BSB's chief executive, said: "We intend to honour what is best in British broadcasting whilst broadening choice and giving greater power to the viewer."

"BSB is in the best traditions of British enterprise. It is ambitious, innovative, committed to quality and based upon a long-term view of investment."

The TV station announced yesterday that it had reached agreement with the All England Lawn Tennis club to show extended highlights of the 1990 Wimbledon championships in peak viewing time.

Spot page 35

George the harris hawk, who has made the feathers fly among the pigeon population of the Broadgate Centre at Liverpool Street station, in the City of London, with Mrs Sue Vanyack, his handler.

Mrs Vanyack and her husband Alan, who keep 28 birds at their home in the Essex village of Chadwell St Mary, have turned their hobby of falconry into a business. "Someone noticed our hawks frightened off smaller birds and asked if we could scare some sparrows for them," Mrs Vanyack said. After that the

contracts trickled in, and they now have eight. The regular presence of the hawk at the Broadgate Centre has scared away the pigeons, who avoid roosting there now that George has established it as his territory. Although he has not killed any of them, he has brought down birds on other pest control assignments.

The hawk has a tiny radio transmitter fixed to his back so that his handlers can keep track of him through a receiver. Usually, though, he returns to them when they blow a whistle.

Merchant shipping fleet 'is below critical level'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE number of merchant seamen available to support Britain's armed forces in a crisis or war has fallen below a critical level, according to a report commissioned by the United Kingdom Centre for Maritime Policy Studies.

The report, which highlighted the continuing rapid reduction in vessels and men, gave a warning that the British-owned merchant shipping fleet could be "threatened with extinction".

Between 1975 and 1988, the British-owned merchant fleet fell from 1,614 ships, totalling 50 million tonnes, to 437 ships and 8,600,000 tonnes. In the same period the number of registered officers and ratings fell from 41,432 and 39,152 to 9,444 and 13,320 respectively. The numbers were continuing to drop by 10 per cent a year.

Yet, according to estimates in the report, the critical levels for defence purposes alone, if there were a full-scale NATO war, were 269 ships, 5,123 officers and 7,888 ratings.

Those would be the numbers for Britain to meet its commitments for the reinforcement of Europe from North America (the North Atlantic Sealift); the reinforcement of Europe from Britain and direct support for the Royal Navy.

Of the present UK-owned fleet, all the deep-sea general cargo vessels would be required, well over 50 per cent of the suitable tankers and offshore supply vessels and most of the ferries. As far as manpower was concerned, over half the merchant shipping crew members would be needed to meet the maximum military requirement.

Although not every task would require all-British crews, the key senior officer posts at least would have to be filled by UK or NATO citizens, the report said.

The study concluded that overall defence and economic re-supply requirements "would absorb the total UK-owned fleet and more, particularly general cargo ships". It

added: "There are now insufficient seafarers to man this total fleet and thus the UK would be dependent on foreign crews being willing to enter the war zone."

The report was carried out for the maritime policy studies centre by the Department of Shipping and Transport at the Polytechnic South West, Plymouth.

Yesterday, Mr. David Tomlinson, director of the centre, said that for the first time even the Ministry of Defence had begun to acknowledge that there were problems.

The defence White Paper published earlier this month claimed that in general there were enough vessels on the UK register to support the armed forces in war but it admitted that the position was "tight in some categories."

The UK Shipping Industry Critical Levels Study (British Maritime Charitable Foundation, £20)

Changes mean more in jail probation officers say

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul sentencing practices are likely to increase the prison population, not reduce it as intended, the National Association of Probation Officers says today.

The association, in its formal response to the criminal justice White Paper published in February, supports the overall aim of improving sentencing consistency and reducing the use of custody, but says the tactics are "deeply flawed" and inadequately costed.

Ministers have said the net effect of the proposals should be to reduce the jail population, which, in spite of a fall of over 2,000 over the past year, continues to dwarf, proportionately, its counterparts in Western Europe. No figures have been given, but the White Paper spoke of a "significant reduction".

The association, however,

flatly rejects the prediction. It says the impact of the new sentencing criteria and non-custodial sanctions would be more than offset by the proposal that offenders receiving prison terms should serve a greater proportion of their sentences in jail.

It accepts the Home Office's calculation that new non-custodial punishments and cuts in maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary would reduce the daily prison population by up to 2,400. But it argues that the estimate that parole changes would raise the figure by 1,400 is far too low, claiming that 2,000 to 3,000 is nearer the mark.

On that arithmetic, there would be a net gain in the population of up to 600 offenders. Ministers, however, believe the association has underestimated the enthusiasm judges and magistrates

Denning attacks decision to free Winchester Three

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

LORD Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, in a letter to *The Times* today, roundly attacks the decision of the Court of Appeal to quash the convictions of the Winchester Three because their case might have been prejudiced by remarks on abandoning the right to silence.

In the judgement on Friday the judges referred to comments on government plans to curtail the right to silence made during the trial two years ago by Mr. Tom King, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Lord Denning. At that stage of the trial the defendants, accused of plotting to kill Mr. King, had elected not to give evidence.

Lord Denning, the appeal judges were told, argued for the abolition of the right to silence in an interview on Channel 4. In the judgement Lord Justice Beldam said that Lord Denning's reputation

and influence on the subject of the law were unique. "For some lawyers, and most laymen, his pronouncements represent the law," he added.

In his letter Lord Denning says that the judgement implies a breach of the Contempt of Court Act but that he had a proper defence, speaking in

good faith on a matter of public interest. He writes: "My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr. Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal."

At the weekend there were calls from the Opposition for statements on what had happened and the role of the law officers, but government sources rejected any suggestion that Mr. King's position as Secretary of State for Defence might be in doubt.

The two men and the woman freed have returned to the Irish Republic. A solicitor for two of the three said she would talk to them about such questions as compensation.

Letters, page 15
Leading article, page 15

Lord Denning: Spoke on the matter in good faith

Lord Denning: Spoke on the matter in good faith

Ministers' saving grace likely to infuriate art world

By Robin Oakley Political Editor

CANOVAS "The Three Graces" is likely to stay in Britain as a result of planned changes to the rules on the export of works of art. They are likely to infuriate the art trade.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr. Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, are to reverse traditional policy on rescuing items for the national heritage with public money only. They are ready to alter the "Waverley Rules" governing such cases, which would mean backing a private deal to keep the Canova in Britain.

They expect an outcry from auction houses and art dealers over

what will be seen as a crucial interference with the free market. The problem is that art prices have more than doubled in five years and the Government is able to preserve fewer than half of the items recommended by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, which has the power to recommend delaying export licences.

The safety net when all else fails is the National Heritage Memorial Fund which has a basic income of no more than £3 million a year, although this is boosted in most years by specific grants.

The Fund has said that underfunding was making it increasingly powerless to save paintings and sculptures. Purchase grants for

museums and galleries have been static for four years and they can no longer compete for items such as the £7.6 million Canova.

Two offers from the private sector have come after the news of the sale to the Getty Museum in California. Mr. Jacob Rothschild, the financier, has produced a scheme to buy the sculpture and set the sum against the duties on a relative's estate. This would be effective mean taxpayers purchasing the work.

The Scottish entrepreneurs David and Frederick Barclay have also offered to pay the £7.6 million, guaranteeing to put the sculpture on public view for 20 years, alternating between the Victoria & Albert museum and a Scottish gallery.

Existing rules provide only for the permanent refusal of export licences when the alternative domestic offer comes from a public collection.

Ministers are prepared to end that restriction, which would leave the Cayman Islands Trust, which owns the Canova, little option but to sell to a private bidder in Britain. If they do that, however, there will be complaints about moving the goal posts in the course of a game, and they will be setting crucial precedents.

One key question is what happens after 20 years if the Barclay brothers have purchased the Canova and then wish to sell it at a profit? Would domestic speculators be able to purchase any work of art tem-

porarily refused an export licence in preference to a foreign buyer, so competing on unfair terms in a theoretically free market?

There is also a question on what restriction should be placed on resale and what effect such an arrangement would have on Britain's hugely successful art trade.

Ministers are considering such details but have taken the decision in principle that the private sector will have to be involved if Britain's art treasures are to be kept for the nation. Also under consideration is the possibility of extending the period for which export licences can be delayed to allow national collections to launch appeals and raise the huge sums required.

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Oxfam bows to ruling on sanctions campaign

By Jamie Dettmer

Oxfam complied with a ruling by the Charity Commissioners yesterday and temporarily dropped plans to campaign in favour of sanctions against South Africa.

The commissioners, who are holding an inquiry to decide whether Oxfam has broken the law by engaging in "political activity," ordered the withdrawal of leaflets calling for sanctions on the eve of the launch of the charity's "Front Line Africa" campaign.

The charity said, however: "It is still Oxfam's policy to say that sanctions should be maintained, because we think that is the best way of helping to achieve peace and development in South Africa and the region as a whole. We base that claim on many years' experience of working in South Africa."

"We will be defending vigorously our position at the inquiry. In the meantime, we

have accepted that the commissioners have made a ruling and we will go along with it."

Oxfam said that it would argue that a charity may legally campaign politically if its work is being obstructed by political factors.

The Front Line Africa campaign, which was launched yesterday, aims to raise £1 million for the charity's work in the region. The campaign also calls for more British and EC aid to be directed to the area and argues that the Government and banks should cancel debts owed to them from the region.

Other charities will be observing the commissioners' inquiry closely. They hope that the investigation, which will look at several recent Oxfam campaigns, including one on Cambodia, will clarify complex charity laws regarding political activity.

The commissioners announced on Friday that they intended to hold an inquiry. They had received several complaints about Oxfam and had decided to hold a "thorough review" rather than deal with each one on a piecemeal basis.

While leaflets calling for the continuation of sanctions were excluded from the launch of Front Line Africa, the commissioners did not ask for a detailed booklet outlining the campaign recommendations to be withdrawn.

Most people believe that Mrs Margaret Thatcher should not yet visit South Africa, according to an opinion poll published today.

The Gallup survey, carried out for the Anti Apartheid Movement, showed 52 per cent thought the Prime Minister should not go until a new agreement is reached between the South African government and the majority black population.

Only 31 per cent supported her visit, which she has already agreed to make without setting a date. The survey found that support for sanctions is the same now as in 1988 - 56 per cent are in favour of them, and 44 per cent against.

The survey was conducted with a sample of 1,000 people after the Easter Monday Wembley concert in honour of Mr Nelson Mandela.

Crosswords stump all but three

By John Grant
Crossword Editor

ONLY three of the 175 contestants at the Birmingham regional final of *The Times* Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship, held at the Grand Hotel yesterday, managed to complete all four puzzles correctly.

Mr Clive Spate, aged 38, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, emerged as champion, completing the four puzzles in an average time of 134 minutes each. He teaches mathematics at Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, Mansfield.

Mr David Meadows, aged 56, a retired information scientist from Alveston, Derby, was second, taking one minute longer per puzzle.

Third was Mr Philip Navin, aged 40, who is head of mathematics at St John's School, Episkopi, Cyprus, who came over to Britain on his half-term to compete in the regional final.

All three go forward to the national final in London on September 8. Mr Simon Chillingworth came fourth.



Historic aircraft fail to take off

By John Shaw

A REPLICA of a Hawker Fury fighter made the top price of £198,000 at Christie's sale of historic aircraft at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, at the weekend.

It was built for Mr Patrick Lindsay, a director of Christie's and a flying enthusiast. It provided a bright spot in a sale of mixed fortunes which made £724,537.

Only 15 of the 43 aircraft on offer sold. Two were withdrawn and 26 went unsold, including a SE5a fighter from the First World War and a MiG 21PF, one of the fastest fighters in the world.

Buying was selective. A 1938 Bucker Jungmeister, the famous aerobatic favourite, made £66,000, a 1953 Cessna 195B and a Mitchell B25 bomber each made £49,500, and a 1936 Focke-Wulf Stieglitz trainer £44,000.

There was keen interest in aviation books, ephemera and clothing. Small aluminium aircraft models were in demand: a Flying Fortress made £2,420 (£400-£600), and a MiG Spitfire £2,640 (£200-£300). A Second World War USAF leather flying jacket,

the back painted with a line of bombs, a glamorous girl and the name "Stardust", sold for £1,100 (£280-£320).

A wartime RAF fur-lined flying jacket and suit made £1,430 (£500-£800), and an RAF mess clock by Smith's, 1942, went to a £2,200 (£300-£500).

Meanwhile Christie's in New York sold clocks and watches for \$1.7 million (£1.1 million). A Patek Philippe

gold wristwatch with a chronograph movement went well above high estimate to \$154,000 (£94,475).

Designs for the Centotaph in Whitehall, sketched one evening during dinner by Sir Edwin Lutyens in July 1919, have been acquired by the Imperial War Museum with the help of a National Art Collections Fund grant. They were sold at Sotheby's in London for £12,000.

The British golfer Sandy Lyle casting a watchful eye over David Evans, a former leukemia victim, playing out of a bunker at Wentworth yesterday as they promoted the second annual "Sandy's Stableford" charity event. The tournament is played in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for children with leukemia. David, aged 14, who plays off a handicap of 13, was one of the thousands of golfers who responded to the Stableford appeal when it was introduced last year, raising more than £100,000.

Labour plans 190mph track to Edinburgh

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

AMBITIOUS plans for 190mph trains running from London to Scotland are being drawn up by the Labour Party as part of its response to the controversy raging over the high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel.

The proposals to be unveiled next month by Mr John Prescott, the chief opposition transport spokesman, envisage a dedicated "fast track" from the capital to Edinburgh with feeder lines to major cities and towns in the North, the West Country and Midlands.

The aim is to ensure that the rest of Britain enjoys the benefits of a high-speed link to the Continent and to enable the railways to compete with air travel.

British Rail's existing proposals using new trains are more modest, a dedicated high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel from London on which up to 15 inter-capital trains will run to Paris and Brussels, reaching speeds of up to 80 mph in Kent and 180 mph on the Continent, plus through services on existing track to the west and east of the country.

Mr Prescott's proposals face formidable obstacles, such as the cost of building a new main line and the difficulties of obtaining planning consent.

He is to seek to persuade the European Commission to release some of its £9.5 billion structural funds for the project and he is holding talks with financiers about a private-sector input. He believes that developers could be persuaded to put up money in return for planning consents around new junctions.

Options for the new trains that would be needed include those already planned by BR

or importing high-speed technology from France, Germany or Japan. It is understood that Mr Prescott is still examining those possibilities and is likely to set out his thinking in a paper to a local authority transport conference on June 18.

He outlined his ambitious new ideas in a little noticed speech last week in Leeds. "We need a high speed rail network. Only half the BR preferred route will be electrified. Our rail gauge is insufficient to meet the greater standards of requirements of many European countries. Many trains in France travel more than twice as fast as the 120 mph in Britain, and to compete for the economic advantages we need modernization now," he said.

"Britain needs a dedicated passenger and freight network to meet the opportunities of the Channel Tunnel. Putting new trains with new potential on old and already congested lines and junctions is ridiculous. It is inefficient."

"The Channel Tunnel rail link must provide the greatest economic advantage to the whole of Britain from Scotland and the North to Wales and the West Country, fully integrated to the cross-London link and including trains travelling straight from Dover, while guaranteeing environmental protection in the South-east."

"The BR preferred route does not meet these objectives. So other options must be considered."

Mr Prescott also reiterated his view that the Government should repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act so that public money could be provided for the high-speed link in Kent.

THE 1990 ROLEX AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE.

1976 marked 50 years of the Rolex Oyster and the foundation of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise. Since then, Rolex has awarded many individuals who have demonstrated the true spirit of enterprise in their fields of endeavour. In the process,

many projects have been brought to fruition which otherwise might never have been realised. A book detailing the projects of the five Rolex Laureates and over 250 other projects has been published by Buri International, Switzerland.

Commitment.

The first Indonesian environmental education centre. It was during long school vacations spent on his uncle's farm in Java that Suryo Prawiroatmodjo developed a passionate love for Nature.

Over time, this has matured into a deep commitment to the environment and a desire to awaken the ecological conscience of the young.

Now Suryo is well on the way to completing construction of Indonesia's first ever environmental education centre. A haven of calm, its mountainside site is skirted by primary forest.

Horrified by his fellow countrymen's attitude to the environment, Suryo believes it is vital that the centre should succeed in its aims.

"I am extremely frightened that one day I might lose my beloved country," he says.



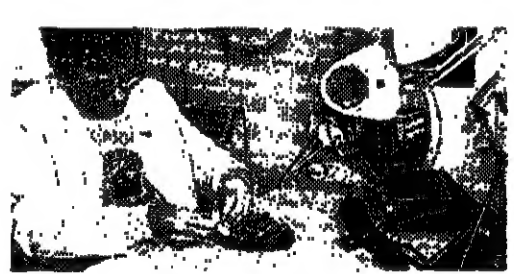
Enthusiasm.

Establishing Europe's first wildlife teaching hospital. An English back garden is the unlikely setting for the home of the Wildlife Hospital Trust, founded twelve years ago by Les Stocker.

Devoted to wildlife since his childhood, and distressed to discover that Britain has few facilities for treating wildlife casualties, Les has

channelled his enthusiasm into developing the Trust with, at its centre, St. Tiggywinkles hospital for hedgehogs.

Now construction plans are well on their way for his most ambitious project: a Wildlife Teaching Hospital. It will house veterinary and training facilities uniquely geared to caring for wildlife and a permanent reference library - established with the help of the Award from Rolex.



Ingenuity.

Laser restoration of the Qin Dynasty Army. Ever since his first experiments in Venice in 1972, John Asmus has pioneered the use of lasers in removing dirt and incrustations from works of art to restore them to their original appearance.

Now he intends to develop this ingenious process still further and use lasers to revitalise and

preserve the colours found on some of the 6,000 warriors of the famous Qin Dynasty terra-cotta army. The Chinese researchers had found that the original paint pigments rapidly disappeared after exposure to air.

John plans to travel to China in the summer of 1990 to begin experiments. It could be a lengthy process - the Chinese estimate there are at least three more armies buried there!



Concern.

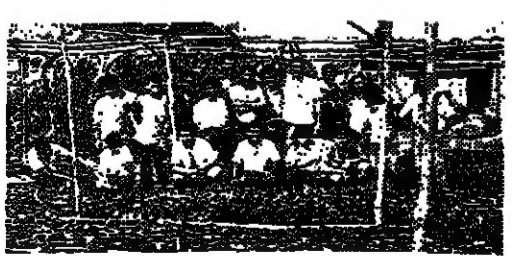
Arco Iris: saving the last forests of the Brazilian Nordeste. While conducting ornithological studies in Brazil, Anita Studer discovered a small bird previously thought extinct: "Study the bird," her fellow researcher warned, "But do it quickly, because in ten years' time there will be no forest."

From that moment, the focus of Anita's

concern shifted, and has now taken the shape of the Arco Iris (Rainbow) project.

This pilot scheme involves the young people of the largely deforested Pedra Talhada area in 'Friends of the Trees' clubs to promote ecological awareness.

The Award from Rolex will help these clubs establish tree nurseries and set in motion a programme of reforestation.



Adventure.

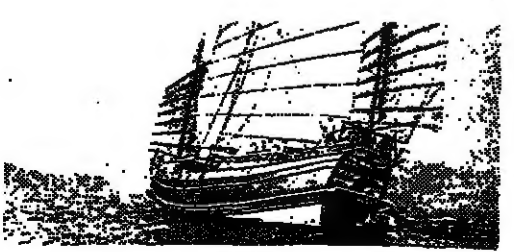
Setting sail in the wake of Marco Polo. In 1292 Marco Polo sailed from the Chinese port of Quanzhou and arrived in Venice two years later.

Now a British doctor living in Hong Kong intends to retrace this voyage.

Dr. Wayne Moran started building a scale replica of a junk of Marco Polo's era in 1986.

Making extensive use of computers in its design, Dr. Moran has constructed a 75 ton vessel named *Cienchin* after the princess whom Marco Polo was escorting to Persia.

For each port of call, Dr. Moran plans an ambitious programme of maritime archaeological, zoological, ethnological, botanical and medical studies to make a comparison between Marco Polo's era and present times.



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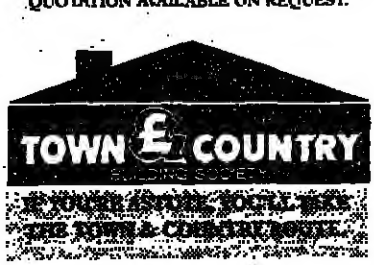
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These three dogs were photographed at an animal home last week. Sadly, they were not reclaimed or rehomed and were put down on Friday.

Today's vote on dog registration will come too late for these dogs.

They were among the 7000 dogs destroyed last week.

As the MPs file through the lobby today, we ask them to remember this:

If the vote goes against registration another 350,000 dogs will die this year.

Next year it may be more. How many dead dogs will it take to make us all act like human beings?



The RSPCA estimates that 1000 unwanted dogs are put down every day by veterinary surgeons, animal welfare societies and local authorities. A dog registration scheme would help save their lives and save the country millions of pounds. Over 90% of the public support dog registration as do most concerned organisations, including the Police Federation, National Farmers Union, British Veterinary Association and the Association of District Councils. Similar schemes work abroad and economists say registration would work here, too. If you're an MP, please support it.

Return to rating system backed by 35%, survey finds

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MORE than twice as many people support the idea of a local income tax to finance local government spending as support either the poll tax or Labour's idea of a tax on the capital value of a house.

When a MORI poll, commissioned by *The Times* last week, posed four alternatives, it found that 29 per cent of those questioned favoured a local income tax. Only 12 per cent backed the community charge, or poll tax, and only 15 per cent a tax based on the market value of the house you live in, which is the essence of Labour's outline proposals for an alternative.

More than a third of those questioned, 35 per cent, preferred the old rating system to any of the other three alternatives. Now that Mrs Thatcher is committed to rapid revision of the poll tax, these findings will give ministers considerable pause for thought. Half the middle classes would favour a local income tax, although they would be the ones likely to be the hardest hit.

The Liberal Democrats, who have been languishing in the national opinion polls, but who tend to perform better in local government elections, are the only party advocating a local income tax, which was derided by Mrs Thatcher in the Commons 10 days ago.

The Liberal Democrats, who retain some 3,000 councillors in local government, make a better showing in a specific MORI poll of 1,212 people who live in the areas where local elections are being held this week. They have doubled their support from 5 per cent, in the first three months of the year, to 10 per cent.

It is the Labour Party, however, that will be most encouraged by the poll findings. In the areas contested, Labour has a lead over the Conservatives of 28 per cent. The MORI poll within the areas measured support for the parties at Labour, 53 per cent; Conservatives, 25 per cent; Liberal Democrats, 10 per cent; Green Party, 5 per cent; Social Democratic Party, 3 per cent; Nationalists, 2 per cent and Others, 2 per cent.

A remarkable 53 per cent of those questioned said they were certain to vote on Thursday. The turn-out in local elections is usually in the mid-thirties. Intention to turn out is 10 points higher among those planning to support Labour, and it is higher in Scotland, where the Conservatives are lagging badly.

As for the community charge, the key issue, the news remains bleak for the Government and explains the flurry of activity within the Cabinet to change it.

While ministers are talking

Poll tax 'most unpopular government legislation'

By Michael Hart

THE poll tax is the most unpopular piece of legislation passed by the Government. In the survey, only 23 per cent of adults approved of the change from domestic rates to the poll tax, and 72 per cent disapproved — a majority against the change of more than 3-1.

At the same time, voting intentions for Thursday's local elections gives Labour 53 per cent against the Conservatives' 25 per cent. If this is the outcome, the Conservatives will suffer their worst local government rout — in an election which has been dominated by the poll tax.

Only 18 per cent thought they would be better off under the poll tax, while 63 per cent thought they would suffer financially. These figures are almost certainly wrong, but it is nevertheless people's perceptions of how they will fare which matter to them.

The Conservative campaign is being conducted under the slogan "Conservative Councils Cost You Less". The survey suggests that this is a weak line — first, because far more people blame the Government for the level of poll tax than their local council (50 per cent to 29 per cent) and, second, because, if almost two thirds think they will be worse off, they are likely to blame the Government for the poll tax.

There is almost no consolation for the Government in the poll's findings. When the community charge was proposed, there was to be a flat rate charge for each individual, irrespective of where they lived. After the last general election, 43 per cent supported this proposal and 39 opposed it. Now, only 23 per cent agree, and 65 per cent oppose.

The Government has abandoned the principle of a flat rate poll tax. There is, however, no other permutation which attracts significantly wider support. The principle

of the poll tax is unpopular, as well as its implementation.

When people were asked which method they would choose to raise funds for local council services, 35 per cent wanted to revert to the old rating system — the most popular option. A local income tax (proposed by the Liberal Democrats) attracted 29 per cent support, a tax based on the market value of a property (floated by the Labour Party) attracted 15 per cent, and the community charge received the support of just 12 per cent.

Unsurprisingly, Conservative voters were more inclined than Labour voters to prefer the poll tax, but even the Government's own supporters were equally divided between the poll tax and a local income tax (30 per cent).

Among Labour voters, 46 per cent advocated a return to the old rating system while 28 per cent opted for a local income tax. Only 16 per cent supported their own party's tax on the market value of a house. Although the poll tax is unpopular, no alternative commands majority support.

Since 1987, Labour's strength has increased most among 16-34-year-olds and it is this age group in which opposition to the poll tax runs most strongly. Forty-three per cent of those questioned said they would support a campaign of non-payment, although in the population as a whole only 8 per cent said they would not pay the tax.

When the Government introduced the community charge it claimed that the new method of taxation would make local government accountable and would cause greater participation in local elections.

In the last 10 years, turnout has hovered around 40 per cent, but in the survey 53 per cent said they were "absolutely

hoping of having persuaded electors to level the blame equally at local councils, the poll shows that half those questioned blamed the Government for the level of the poll tax, while 29 per cent blamed their council, with 14 per cent blaming both equally.

The position has worsened for the Government since the time of the mid-Staffordshire by-election in March. A MORI constituency poll then found 47 per cent blaming the Government and 35 per cent the local council, a margin of only 12 per cent, compared with 21 per cent now. Even among Conservatives, only 31 in 10 blame the council.

Asked if they approved or disapproved of the switch from the rating system to the community charge, 72 per cent opposed the move and just 23 per cent supported it. Ominously for ministers, disapproval is just as high in Scotland, where the community charge has been in existence for a year. This indicates that the political effect will not wash out easily in time for the next general election.

In spite of predictions among anti-poll tax campaigners of a large percentage refusing to pay, the poll shows that less than 10 per cent acknowledge a willingness to go that far. However, this represents more than three million people willing to defy the law. In Scotland, 13 per cent do not intend paying.

Of those questioned, 28 per cent had already paid the tax, 57 per cent intended to pay, and 8 per cent said they intended not to pay. Six per cent refused to answer and one per cent did not know what they would do.

When people were asked, however, if they would support a campaign to encourage the withholding of payment, 27 per cent said they would support such a campaign, with 63 per cent opposing the idea and 10 per cent undecided. One in 10 Conservative supporters would back such a campaign. And over half (51 per cent) of those aged 18-24, those most likely to take to the

streets, support a campaign of withholding payment. When people were asked how much better or worse off they thought they would be under the poll tax, less than a fifth believed they would benefit and almost two thirds believed they would suffer. Just 6 per cent said they would be much better off, 12 per cent thought they would be a little better off and 14 per cent thought the new tax would make no difference to them.

Twenty-two per cent thought they would be a little worse off, and 41 per cent thought they would be much worse off. Nearly half (44 per cent) of Conservative supporters thought they would be worse off and just four in 10 of the single-person households, who were designed to benefit from the community charge, believed they would do so.

At the time of the last general election, there was 43 per cent support for a poll tax paid by all over 18 as an alternative to domestic rates, compared with only 39 per cent against. By the end of that year, sentiment had moved against the community charge by 49 to 37 per cent. By June 1988, the tax was opposed by 65 per cent with only 23 per cent in favour, and the net opposition figure remained at around 42 per cent until the tax was introduced this month.

The arrival of bills on doormats has concentrated minds further, with 23 per cent remaining in support in the latest poll, but 72 per cent now disapproving, while the "don't know" have reduced over the past month from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,887 adults aged 18-plus at 144 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain. Of these, 1,212 were interviewed in constituencies within the boundaries of local authorities holding council elections on May 3. Interviews were conducted at home, face-to-face, on April 19-24, 1990. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

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Which alternative policy would you most prefer for raising funds for local council services (%)?

| | All | Con | Lab |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Old rating system | 35 | 17 | 48 |
| Community charge/poll tax | 12 | 30 | 5 |
| Tax on market value of house | 15 | 13 | 18 |
| Local income tax | 29 | 30 | 28 |
| Don't know | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| None of these | 3 | 4 | 2 |

On the whole, are you more inclined to blame the Government or the local council for the level of poll tax or community charge that people in this area will have to pay (%)?

| | All | Con | Lab |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Government | 50 | 21 | 88 |
| Council | 29 | 57 | 18 |
| Both equally | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| Don't know | 7 | 8 | 4 |

Do you support or oppose the Government replacing the system of domestic rates with a fixed charge paid by people in each household aged over 16 (%)?

| | All | Con | Lab |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Support | 43 | 23 | 23 |
| Oppose | 43 | 53 | 75 |
| Don't know | 16 | 12 | 12 |

Making waves on the leafy Thames

By Sheila Gann
Political Reporter

MR DAVID Williams took a few hours off from the local council election campaign last week to collect his insignia of the CBE from the Queen. The honour had been given for services to local government.

The timing is nice. The Liberal Democrat is defending his record as leader of Richmond upon Thames Borough Council for the past seven years in next week's elections. The neatly tended homes and gardens, spacious parklands, commuter car parks and air of affluence in the borough present the epitome of a Tory stronghold. The constituencies for miles around return Conservative MPs.

Yet everything in Richmond is upside down. While support for the Liberal Democrats nationally has slumped since the Alliance heyday, the party has 46 of the borough council's 52 seats. Anti-merger SDP members hold two seats, the Conservatives four, and Labour none.

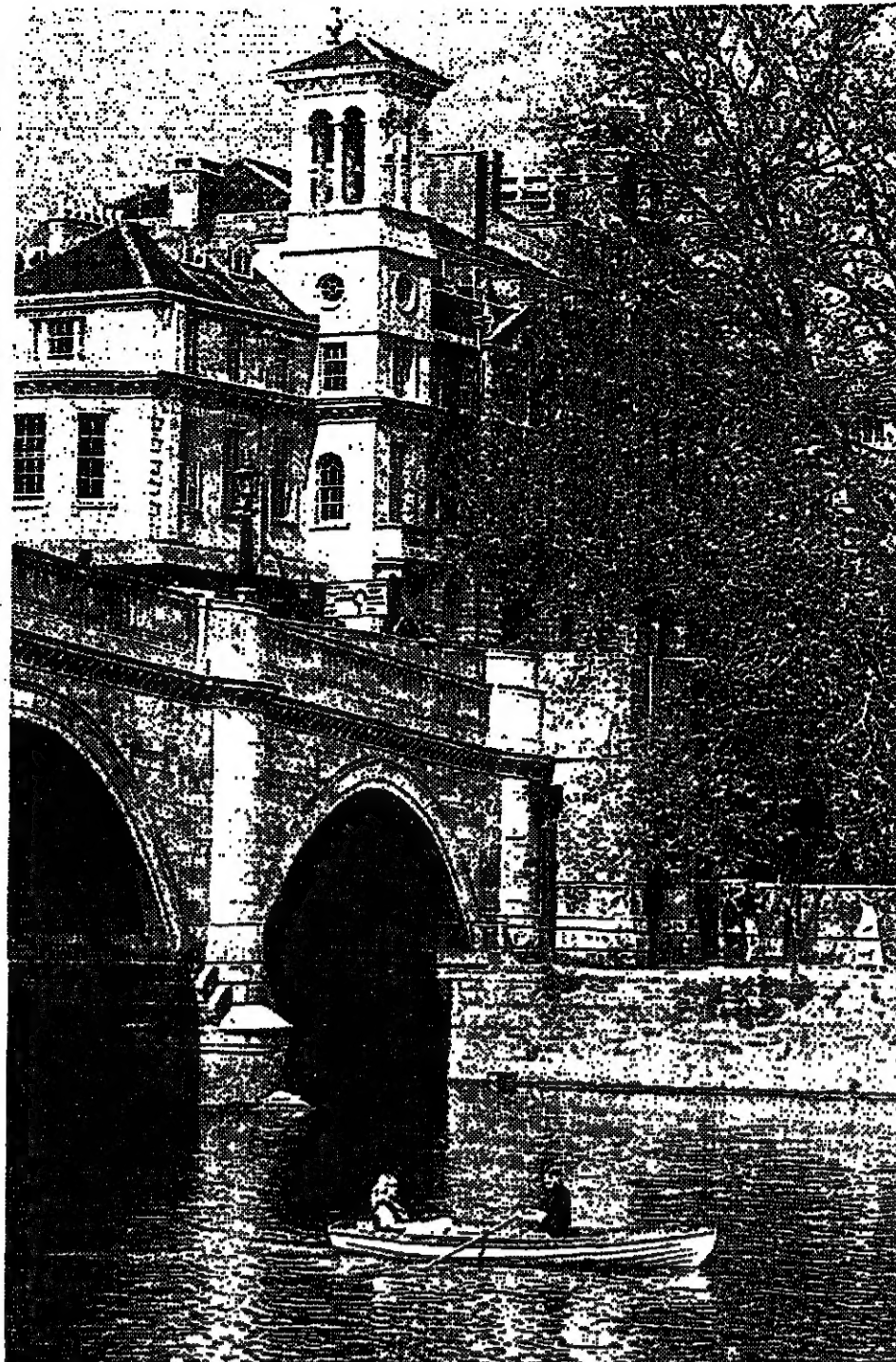
It is the showpiece of the 10 local authorities which the Liberal Democrats administer with majority control. While the party is fighting 1,000 fewer seats nationally, it remains confident of continuing its domination of the wards spreading outwards from the main artery of the Thames in Richmond, Barnes, Twickenham, Teddington, Hampton, Kew, Mortlake and East Sheen.

Labour might enjoy something of a honeymoon in opinion polls, but its chances of winning seats on the council are probably limited to hopes of regaining four former Labour wards. For the Conservatives, Richmond is a "targeted council". It is a stain on their record in southern England since they lost control seven years ago.

The party's resources have been focused on winning it back. At the launch of his party's campaign, the Conservative councillor Mr Nicholas True insisted: "This local election is not about the record of the Conservative Government or the number of children in need or the President of South Africa. It is about the record of the Liberal council that has been in power for seven years."

Tory canvassers, however, say they are being given a hard time by residents over the poll tax, health and education reforms and Mrs Thatcher's leadership. They hoped to find mileage in attacking alleged mismanagement by criticising, for instance, the £395 poll-tax, £44 above the Government's target. Mr Williams points out that the charge is lower than in the Tory-controlled Surrey districts.

The argument swings both ways for the Conservatives as the relatively low level, com-



A couple enjoy the Thames at the weekend as the Tories prepared their advance

pared to the high rates, might make a favourable impression on many voters. It undermines, however, accusations of wasteful bureaucracy by the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives' campaign agenda make a strong feature of the amount spent on publicity and public relations. Mr Williams counters by blaming high spending on the need to explain the poll tax to residents and to promote his own "green" charter.

Tory candidates fighting all 52 seats are also focusing on a messy dispute over the demise of the borough's world-renowned ice rink next year. The council granted planning permission to developers to build homes on the rink's east Twickenham site. It did so with an understanding of du-

bious status that permission would be given for a rink to be built in the Old Deer Park.

Parking, given the commuter pressures and the many narrow lanes, is a recurrent theme. Mr True attacks the Liberal Democrats' hostility to the private motorist but also promises to discourage unnecessary car use.

Mr Williams, aged 50, with 16 years on the council behind him, seven as leader, accuses the Conservatives of running "a very abusive, negative campaign". In fact, the campaign bears all the hallmarks of the dirty tricks conventionally employed by the old Liberals at by-election campaigns.

The part-time computer consultant takes a special pride in his "green" record, and also says: "Our style of

government in the council is to involve people as much as we can and we have put a lot of effort into very wide consultation, for instance on the poll tax level."

Developments only go ahead, he insisted, after consultation and if there is public support. This has brought accusations that he was off-loading his responsibilities.

The £35,000 sculpture in the central concourse of the council's new civic offices in Twickenham also offends the Tories. They say it demonstrates the Liberal Democrats' wrong priorities. The sculpture shows three figures climbing a rope. They are intent, as are the Conservatives, not only on keeping their tenuous hold, but are struggling to gain ground.

Tories accused on proxy voting

By Ray Clancy

BLIND and housebound elderly people have unwittingly signed away their votes in this week's local election in the London Borough of Havering. It was alleged yesterday.

Romford police are investigating the allegations after the council's returning officer found that 109 proxy votes, mostly pledged to Tory supporters, had been applied for in the Chase Cross Ward, where there are usually only a handful of such votes.

Liberal Democrat and Labour candidates in the ward claimed Conservative candidates had been visiting homes for the elderly, persuading them to agree to a proxy vote. The Conservatives said, however, that they had done nothing illegal, although they admit that some people might have become confused.

Proxy votes allow those who, because they are housebound, ill, on holiday or unable to get to the polling station on election day, to sign a document allowing someone else to vote on their behalf.

Mr Terry Hurstons, a Liberal Democrat candidate, said he had spoken to at least two dozen people, some of them infirm and blind, who had told him they had not realized what they were doing. Some had thought the Conservatives were offering them a lift to the polling station.

He found that two Tory candidates, Mr Andrew Rosindell and Mr Cyril North, had visited Hampden Lodge home and signed up 30 residents as proxy Conservative voters. "Half of those residents are suffering from senile dementia and the warden refused to counter-sign the proxy vote forms for them."

Mr Rosindell said: "It is all quite within the law. No signatures have been forged. Nobody was pushed into signing. They were asked if they wanted a proxy vote, some did and some didn't... I admit some of them might have been a bit confused."

Mr North denied the claim from other parties that most of the proxy votes had gone to elderly people. "Only a minority are elderly people. Very few of them are unhappy about us approaching them."

The local Labour party said last night it had begun its own investigation. "We feel there has been a possible breach of the Representation of the People Act," said Mr Stefan Koseda, a Labour candidate.

A spokesman for Havering council said it was willing to consider requests for cancellation of proxy votes.

Official candidate fights true blue rival

By Kerry Gill

FOR the last 33 years, apart from a three-month hiccup seven years ago, Mr Len Thomson has served as an independent councillor in the Borders, his position virtually unassailable. Then, a few weeks ago, along came Mr David Hunter.

Mr Hunter represents the decision by the Scottish Conservative Party to challenge the historic stronghold that independents have had on local government in this predominantly rural area.

While everyone knows that Mr Thomson votes Conservative and, indeed, has held office in the local constituency association, he has refused consistently to stand as a Tory, believing that party politics are anathema to Borders folk.

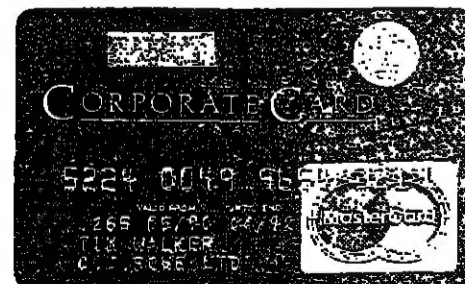
The Tories, however, tired of their own supporters refusing to disclose their true colours, decided to field their own candidates against the independents. Enter Mr Hunter, the Conservative candidate who is determined to wrest the Forest ward on Borders Regional Council from his erstwhile colleague.

In 1986, the independents enjoyed a majority of 11 seats, but that has been cut to seven although three other "no ticket" members have continued to support them.

Mr Thomson, aged 74, was approached three months ago by the Tories, who asked him to stand for them. "I said, 'Just carry on and oppose me. I am standing as a no ticket'. There is absolutely no need for party politics here. I have seen how it works in Strathclyde and Lothian, all the bitter wrangling and de-selection if you don't follow the party line, but the Borders would not have it," the former Provost of Selkirk said.

"I have had phone calls from all over the Borders from leading Conservatives saying how much they disapprove of this kind of action. The Conservatives are only doing this to boost the number of votes they get nationally, they don't seriously believe they will ever win the Borders."

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Rules on religion lead to rethink on broadcasting Bill

By John Lewis, Political Staff

THE Government is considering late changes to the Broadcasting Bill after discovering that the rules on religious broadcasting could stop the Church of England broadcasting its normal services.

Mr David Mellor, the minister responsible for broadcasting, is discussing amendments to the consumer protection clauses of the Bill, drawn up tightly to prevent a Moonie-type invasion of television. He is being pressed by some MPs to relax the rules so that the "Moonies" and other religious groups can broadcast as well, if they wish to do so.

The Bill says nothing in the programmes of new franchise-holders after 1992 must offend against good taste and decency or incite to crime or disorder. It also says undue prominence must not be given to the views and opinions of particular people or bodies on religious matters and that the programme should not carry views and opinions of the broadcasters on religious matters.

The fear is that this could stop the Church of England conducting its own services and could limit other pro-

grammes. Mr Mellor has made concessions to the religious lobby, led by Mr Michael Alison, a former minister and parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, who speaks for the Church Commissioners.

An amendment at the report stage of the Bill, expected in the second week in May, will require the new channel three and five companies to provide religious content in their schedules. Religious organisations would also be able to have their own local radio and television stations on non-DBS satellite, such as Sky from outside Britain and not licensed by the Independent Television Commission.

Mr Mellor said: "We have to decide whether the no-editorializing and no giving undue prominence arrangement provide a sufficient amount of flexibility for religious organisations to pursue properly mainstream broadcasting and whether we need to make some changes."

"The question is whether it is too restrictive by applying that to television. We want to strike a balance of not having Moonie television, but, on the

other hand, not having non-editorializing restrictions which stop a local church having a radio station."

Mr Mellor added: "It would be ludicrous -- and I don't think it would happen -- if the restriction meant that the Church of England could not put on its own service. We are determined not to have American-type religious people over here, but I am looking again at the detail to see if we have the precise formulation right."

Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, who has campaigned for religious programmes, said last night she was pressing for a general relaxation. "There is a great deal of concern among Christians that this Bill, which they expected to provide greater freedom on the airwaves for religion will, if anything, be more restrictive."

Ministers had been particularly alarmed about the way in which credulous viewers in the US have been persuaded to part with large sums of money to subsequently discredited religious groups.

Valuing truth, page 16

Marching with memories of Burma campaign



Veterans of the 1942-1945 Burma campaign from all over the world who took part in the Burma Star National Remembrance Parade in

London yesterday included Mr Jack Hibbert, from Southampton, Hampshire (left) and Mr Jim Cowan, of Dickson, Tennessee.

Ex-PC sues over delay on injury compensation

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A FORMER policeman will seek leave in the High Court today to challenge, by way of judicial review, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board over its delay of nearly two years in handling his claim.

The application, by Mr Paul Hutton, a former constable with Thames Valley police, is viewed as a test case over delays in the handling of claims by the board.

The board is faced with a huge backlog of cases (the total stood at 82,000 last November), many of which are taking two years to be processed.

The case brought by Mr Hutton, aged 40, now a court usher, arises from injuries sustained in 1976 to his upper back and neck when he was assaulted and thrown down some stairs by four youths he was trying to arrest. In 1978 the board awarded him £175.

In August 1982, he retired from the force as medically unfit, but problems with his neck continued. In 1988, a second claim was lodged.

Mr Ian Walker, his solicitor, a senior litigation partner at Russell Jones and Walker, said that there was conflicting medical evidence over whether his present problems related to the original injury in 1976. The board therefore resolved to conduct its own medical examination and agreed to be bound by the findings.

"That was in August 1988, and apart from the odd letter, nothing at all has happened since. Mr Hutton is effectively still waiting to be examined. He said they had decided to bring the High Court proceedings to force the board to deal properly with the claim and, in an attempt to get the board properly to prioritize the work that it has."

Mr Walker added: "Clearly, it would be wrong to say Mr Hutton should be put at the top of the queue, in the absence of any special circumstances. But we do say that clearly, even given the backlog, Mr Hutton is not being treated properly."

There was no doubt that many other people were in a similar position. "Even by the board's own admission, the

backlog has now reached unacceptable levels."

Leave to bring judicial review proceedings is sought on the basis that the board is "guilty of excessive and undue delay" in processing the application, such as to amount to a failure of its duty to the applicant, and/or an "abuse of its discretion and/or power".

The Government has given the board an extra £16 million this year for more staff to deal with the backlog and the 40,000 new cases every year.

Labour asks for judicial overhaul

REFORMS to the training and system for appointing judges were urged at the weekend by Mr John Fraser, an opposition spokesman for legal affairs (Frances Gibb writes).

Addressing legal aid lawyers at the annual conference of the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group in Bristol, he criticized government reforms of the legal profession "for doing nothing about the judiciary".

He called for the creation of a judicial appointments commission. The Government's Courts and Legal Services Bill was aimed at eliminating discrimination in recruitment to the profession and the same principle should apply to the judiciary, he said.

Mr Fraser went on to repeat Labour's policy of a new department for the administration of justice, accountable to a minister.

The Lord Chancellor would then be a judge part of the time and in the House of Lords for the rest of the time.

Mr Fraser also said he would be seeking amendments to the role of the judges under the Bill so that it was not possible "for a single judge to veto the new rules" by which solicitor-advocates will enjoy wider rights of audience. "This should be a collective judgement: either all the judges approve the rules or they don't."

900lb bomb defused

Security forces in Northern Ireland defused a 900lb bomb at the weekend. The device, left in a Citroën van on the Fairmount housing estate in Dungannon, caused the latest in a series of alerts in Ulster in spite of a huge security drive.

There were explosions in Lisburn, Strabane and Londonderry on Saturday, although there were no injuries, and security forces discovered a bomb on a bus between Belfast and Aldergrove Airport. A woman was arrested.

War lines

The line of early Civil War defences has been found by archaeologists in Newark, Nottinghamshire, on the site of the old Castle Brewery.

Young patient

Stephen Hollis, aged three, one of the youngest people to have a heart-lung transplant, was stable at the Killingbeck Hospital, in Leeds.

Mine netted

Royal Navy experts blew up a 1,600lb wartime German mine off Sizewell, Suffolk, after it was netted by four Belgian trawlers.

Death at 108

Ethel Kerslake, a former London teacher and one of the oldest people in Britain, died aged 108 in hospital at Truro, Cornwall.

Rapist caught

Brian Kennah, a convicted rapist and the only one of six prisoners at large 10 days after escaping from Gloucester prison, was re-arrested in Bristol.

Pendant stolen

Thieves stole a pendant commemorating the death of Nelson from Charlotte House near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Private light

A 199-year-old lighthouse at Happisburgh, Norfolk, is to be run by a private trust as a beacon for local mariners.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bond draw: £100,000, 17VN 222100 (Mid Glamorgan); £50,000, 11TB 714857 (Suffolk); £25,000, 20RL 722888 (Merseyside).

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*APR shows cost of £10,000 loan assuming 11.9% mortgage rate. (Low Start) Endowment on £60,000 property. Mortgage Valuation fee £90. The advance can be up to 90% of purchase price or valuation, whichever is lower. All interest charges represent of capital held free £80 (assuming 10% security given for Society and borrower). Mortgage Valuation fee £90 and £10 endowment fees are included in the example. On a 25 year mortgage borrower would make 100 monthly repayments, v11 - £362.92 v12 - £344.96 v13 - £327.71 v14 - £312.92 v15 - £299.65. Typically a couple 'X' (male and female, aged 25, both non-smokers, over a 25 year period) would pay an endowment premium of £99.99 assuming that mortgage rate shown will rise change after third year. Total amount payable £19,494.40. APR shows cost of £60,000 loan assuming 16.7% discounted mortgage rate in years 1-3 (low start) endowment on a property covering £75,000 (mortgage Valuation fee £120). 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Summit steps up the pace of European political unity

From Michael Blyden, Dublin

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers will this week begin drawing up the report they are to present to the next Dublin summit, setting out what is meant by European political unity and detailing the changes needed in the Treaty of Rome to achieve it.

In just two short months they must list all the options open to the Community, how the defence and foreign policies of the Twelve should be co-ordinated, how the powers of the Brussels Commission and the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be altered - and how the rhetoric should be translated into reality.

In theory, their report will be the basis for a decision at the end of the Irish presidency on whether and when to call an inter-governmental conference. In fact, however, the leaders of the Twelve on Saturday pre-empted the decision.

As Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister and host of the summit, announced afterwards, the convening of a conference is now a foregone conclusion. It will open in December and run in parallel with the conference on Economic and Monetary Union.

Under the accelerated timetable also agreed here, final conferences are to end within about a year, so that new treaties can be ratified in 1992 which will set the Community on an irrevocable course to economic and political union from the beginning of 1993.

Afterwards the leaders all agreed that the atmosphere at the summit was unusually cordial. Mrs Thatcher was determinedly conciliatory in her manner, and both Mr Jacques Delors, the Commission President, and Mr Haughey, old antagonists of Britain's, went out of their way to find points of agreement with her. Such was the harmony that the meeting finished almost an hour ahead of schedule.

Several participants said they thought Mrs Thatcher provided a healthy questioning of some of the more airy-

fairly rhetoric, and her stance usefully foreshadowed the problems that must be solved if closer political integration is to make progress.

Mrs Thatcher herself made no secret of her scepticism at a press conference after the summit. "The trouble is, there is quite a lot of rhetoric and far too little nitty-gritty, and I hope the foreign ministers get down to the nitty-gritty and come up with something which does improve the European institutions, which does look and see if we need any modification and see if that modification needs a treaty reform."

Acknowledging her defeat with good grace, she did not, however, doubt that there would be a treaty change. Britain's job was now to define what political union meant, since each member - including France and West Germany, its proponents - had a different interpretation.

It did not mean a unitary European state, she insisted. There must be no loss of national institutions, no centralization of power in Brussels. Separate identity - "our greatest strength" - must not disappear just as East European countries are struggling to establish theirs.

The constitutional position of the EC's six monarchs and six presidents would be unchanged, she said. National parliaments would not be



M. Delors: "Adam would not have been created"



Happy family: Mrs Thatcher with other EC leaders after Saturday's summit in Dublin, at which an unusual degree of harmony prevailed

suppressed, nor existing legal and electoral systems abandoned. No country had any intention of giving up national sovereignty and its ultimate right to decide on war and peace.

Claiming that her concerns were echoed by other leaders, Mrs Thatcher persuaded Mr Haughey to agree that all these matters were "off limits". Only M. Delors, who came down on her side in urging caution and rejecting loose talk of instant political union, balked at her list of negatives.

"If I tried to define all the things a man is not, I don't think Adam would have been created," he said. To which the Prime Minister riposted: "God did do better on his second thoughts when he created Eve."

Mrs Thatcher, clearly in high spirits, did not challenge or denounce the commitment of her colleagues to political unity.

She said she had put her points across, and called the conclusions satisfactory. She was particularly pleased that the Twelve, not including neutral Ireland, had reaffirmed their "support" for NATO and a unified Germany's place in it.

Other leaders were equally

happy at the outcome. Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, was effusive in his thanks for his colleagues' support of German unification. No one, he said, had tried to "hold up the course of the Rhine".

The Chancellor promised in return that Germany would seek no additional funds, and appeared politely to decline an offer by M. Delors of a special financial package to welcome East Germany into the Community.

Herr Kohl and other leaders spoke only of the EC help, know-how and restructuring programmes that East Germany would share with other East European countries during its remaining time as a separate state.

He rejected Mrs Thatcher's contention that the EC was putting the cart before the horse in calling a conference on political union before defining it. The EC had often made similar commitments before working out the details - as in the Single European Act. But Herr Kohl made clear Germany's own priority, which is a strengthening of the European Parliament.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Dublin welcome for democracy

THE European Council expresses its deep satisfaction at developments in Central and Eastern Europe since the Strasbourg European Council. It applauds the continuing process of change in these countries with whose people we share a common heritage and culture. This process of change brings ever closer a Europe which, having overcome the unnatural divisions imposed on it by ideology and confrontation, stands united in its commitment to democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, full respect for human rights and the principles of the market economy.

The European Council welcomes in particular the holding of free elections in the German Democratic Republic and Hungary and looks forward to similar developments in the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Community warmly welcomes German unification. It looks forward to the positive and fruitful contribution that all Germans can make following the forthcoming integration of the territory of the GDR into the Community.

We are confident that German unification will be a positive factor in the development of Europe as a whole and of the Community in particular.

A point has now been reached where the continued dynamic development of the Community has become an imperative not only because it corresponds to the direct interest of the 12 member states but also because it has become a crucial element in the progress that is being made in establishing a reliable framework for peace and security in Europe. The European Council therefore agrees that fur-

The EC final statement released in Dublin at the weekend runs to more than 4,000 words. Extracts relevant to EC political union, German unity, European security and aid to Eastern Europe appear here in full

ther, decisive steps should be taken towards European unity as envisaged in the Single European Act.

We are pleased that German unification is taking place under a European roof. The Community will ensure that the integration of the territory of the GDR into the Community is accomplished in a smooth and harmonious way.

The European Council is satisfied that this integration will contribute to faster economic growth in the Community and agrees that it will take place in conditions of economic balance and monetary stability.

The integration will become effective as soon as unification is legally established, subject to the necessary transitional arrangements. It will be carried out without a revision of the treaties.

During the period prior to unification the Federal Government will keep the Community fully informed of any relevant measures discussed and agreed between the authorities of the two Germanies for the purpose of aligning their policies and their legislation. Furthermore, the Commission will be fully involved with these discussions.

The movement to restore freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and the progress already made, and in prospect, in arms negotiations, now make it both possible and necessary to develop a wider framework of peace, security and co-

operation for all of Europe. To this end, the Community and its member states will play a leading role in all proceedings and discussions within the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) process and in efforts to establish new political structures or agreements based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act while maintaining existing security arrangements which member states have.

With regard to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe the European Council welcomes the wide range of measures adopted or put in place over the past months, including the agreement on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the conclusion of trade and co-operation agreements between the Community and most of these countries, and other important actions in the context of the G-24 co-operation.

The European Council is of the opinion that transfers of private capital and investment towards these countries should be encouraged and invites the Commission to study the implementation of the most appropriate measures (for example, reinsurance, granting of guarantees).

The European Council agrees that the action within the framework of G-24 should be extended to the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. The Community will work actively for the adoption of an action

plan for assistance to these countries at the forthcoming G-24 ministerial meeting.

Discussions will start forthwith in the Council ... on association agreements with each of these countries of Central and Eastern Europe which include an institutional framework for political dialogue. The Community will work to complete association negotiations with these countries as soon as possible on the understanding that the basic conditions with regard to democratic principles and transition towards a market economy are fulfilled.

The European Council discussed the proposal of President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl on political union and the paper submitted by the Belgian Government on the same subject. In this context the European Council confirmed its commitment to political union and decided on the following steps:

A detailed examination will be put in hand forthwith on the need for possible treaty changes with the aim of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the union, enabling the Community and its institutions to respond effectively to the demands of the new situation and assuring unity and coherence in the Community's international action.

Foreign ministers will undertake this examination and analyse and prepare proposals to be discussed at the European Council in June with a view to a decision on the holding of a second inter-governmental conference to work in parallel with the conference on Economic and Monetary Union with a view to ratification by member states in the same time frame. (Reuter)

Peking admits prisoner torture

Peking
CHINESE police torture prisoners to extract confessions, killing or wounding many of their victims, a senior official has revealed.

China had investigated 2,900 cases of "perverting justice for bribes, extorting confessions by torture, illegal detention and neglect of duty" from January to March, Mr Liang Guoqing, the Deputy Chief Prosecutor, was quoted as saying.

More than 490 cases involved "deaths and injuries as well as serious economic losses". Mr Liang was quoted by the New China News Agency as saying.

His report appeared to be the first official confirmation of widespread accounts of beatings and torture inflicted on prisoners after crackdowns on last year's democracy movement and Tibetan independence protests.

In Geneva on Friday, the United Nations Committee Against Torture asked China to provide more details of measures it says it has taken to stamp out torture in prisons.

The committee of 10 independent human rights experts told China that charges of ill-treatment of prisoners were so widespread they could not be considered isolated.

A Chinese legal expert attending the Geneva meeting said reports of torture in Chinese jails were "rumours and gossip". But prisoners recently released from Chinese jails have described how electric prods, beatings, prolonged periods of isolation

and sexual abuse of women are used to punish and extract confessions.

Mr Michel Voyame of Switzerland, the UN committee chairman, said a report presented by China was too vague. "We want to know what measures are being taken to prevent torture and to punish those responsible," he said.

In his report on the anti-corruption drive, Mr Liang said that police had arrested Mr Cao Bin, a senior official in the Communist Party's propaganda department, and were still investigating Mr Luo Yunguang, the Deputy Minister for Railways. (Reuter)

● TOKYO: A Chinese hijacker who lost his appeal for political asylum in Japan after diverting a China Airlines jet to Japan last December was back in China yesterday after Tokyo ignored protests from human rights activists and went ahead with his extradition. (Joe Joseph writes.)

The Japanese Government was unconvinced by Mr Zhang Zhenhai's claims that he was a political dissident who was active in last summer's pro-democracy protests in China.

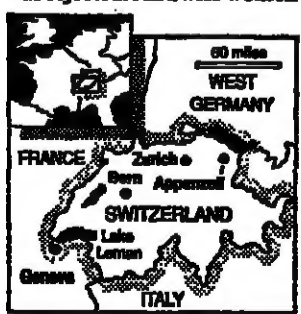
● PARIS: Fears for the safety of the Chinese dissident ship Goddess of Democracy were allayed yesterday when contact with the ship was re-established after a lapse of four days (Susan MacDonald writes). A spokesman for one of the ship's sponsors said storms in the Indian Ocean were to blame for the ship's failure to check in as usual.

Swiss male bastion clings to tradition

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

FOR the third time in two decades, the sub-canton of Appenzell Inner-Rhoden, the last bastion of Swiss male supremacy, yesterday defiantly refused to give women the vote in local affairs. The decision was carried by a clear majority of raised hands at the colourful and picturesque annual outdoor *Landsgemeinde* assembly of the 4,000 adult male and sword-carrying citizens - of a total population of some 15,000.

Even women among the guests in a place of honour in the town of Appenzell's square smiled when the official proposal to grant them the vote was rejected. All Swiss women



were given the vote in national matters in 1971. Women in Appenzell Auser-Rhoden, the other half of the canton, were granted the vote in local affairs last year.

The outcome thus leaves the tiny sub-canton, with its predominantly Roman Catholic population and agricultural economy, the only place in the country whose women are not fully enfranchised.

Above all, the solemn ceremony yesterday was the occasion for a final demonstration of fidelity to six centuries of tradition which is esteemed by both sexes.

The men of Appenzell will, however, not have the opportunity to say so yet again. This latest rejection of votes for women will be followed by a submission to the country's supreme court, the Federal Tribunal, asking it to eliminate the anachronism.

With both federal and cantonal governments - including that of Inner-Rhoden itself - firmly advocating equality for women, the court's ruling can hardly be in doubt.

Flames cast pall over the slums of Delhi

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

IN A fortnight of fires 50,000 Delhi slum-dwellers have been driven out of their wretched under-box huts - the victims, as often as not, of the politics of slum life.

More than 11,000 *juggis* (huts) have been destroyed, leaving a desperate army of homeless people sleeping amid the devastation of what used to masquerade as home. Black palls of smoke crept across the Delhi sky over the weekend as the incendiary madness continued.

Last Monday 2,000 *juggis* were gutted and 10 people died. On Tuesday another 4,000 were destroyed in three separate fires; on Wednesday 1,200 were burnt. The Delhi fire brigade, which boasts a paltry 160 fire engines in this city of seven million people, often had to let them burn.

Where *juggis* are massed a mafia of thugs and crooks will be found. The *pradhans* are the guttersnipes who are the masters of this misery, extorting a prohibitive 200 rupees (nearly £8) from people seeking the right to occupy 12 square yards of government-owned land.

Juggi dwellers are at the mercy of pestilence, fire and government steamrollers. Newspapers often carry photographs of men and women, picked through the crushed wreckage of their possessions in the wake of an official demolition squad.

Juggis - made of tin, mud, bits of brick, cardboard and canvas - continue to spread over vast areas of Delhi. There are 250,000 slum dwellers in the capital.

Two important government buildings have also been damaged in fires, revealing fire safety laws for the force they are. The Government admitted to Parliament that 138 multi-storey buildings in Delhi lacked basic facilities to prevent or fight fires.

Vigyan Bhawan, the Indian Government's main conference centre, was all but destroyed in a fire. And no wonder: it had a combustible false ceiling; its walls were covered in wood paneling; and seating was flammable.

The *juggi* fires are the result of both accidents and malice - mostly the latter. Accidents are usually due to illegal power connections, which are controlled by *juggi* bosses who bribe officials from the power company and then charge slum-dwellers for a "hook-up".

Four men have been arrested for deliberately starting one fire that destroyed several thousand *juggis* in the hope of getting meagre government compensation that is sometimes paid after big disasters. This is one of the main motives for slum fires.

There are other causes, too, involving crooked politicians and bureaucrats who administer parcels of public land as though it were their own. When they want to clear *juggi*-covered property to pursue a more lucrative proposition, there is nothing cheaper, quicker or more effective than a fire.

Hong Kong boat people break out

Hong Kong - About 100 Vietnamese boat people escaped from the Whitehead detention camp in the New Territories shortly after midnight on Saturday by cutting through fences.

Eighteen hours later police said 16 of the men, women and children had been recaptured. About 22,500 people are housed in the camp, most awaiting screening to decide whether they qualify as refugees for resettlement in other countries.

The Hong Kong authorities are concerned that the colony is about to face another influx of boat people. They believe about 640 boat people arrived in April, or about half this year's total so far. (AP)

Angola peace talks agreed

Lisbon - The Government of Angola and the Unita rebels have agreed on a timetable for future peace negotiations to end the country's 15-year civil war (Martha de la Cal writes).

The deal was struck during two days of secret talks last week in Evora, about 90 miles from here. Senhor Durao Barroso, the Portuguese Foreign Secretary, who acted as an intermediary, said the dates could not yet be made public. He said the Lusanda Government had presented a list of conditions and Unita had agreed to consider them.

Workers clash with police

Ulsan, South Korea - Workers evicted from Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea's biggest shipyard, waged battles with riot police here yesterday.

About 2,000 workers, driven from the yard in a police assault on Saturday, the fourth day of a wildcat strike, threw stones and petrol bombs. Scores of union members still occupying a production plant threatened suicide. (Reuter)

Deputy fills breach after Bogotá killing

Bogotá

THE left-wing Colombian movement M 19 buried its assassinated leader, presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro, on Saturday and named a new candidate for elections on May 27.

About 20,000 people escorted Pizarro's coffin on a seven-hour march through the capital to the cemetery, chanting "Carlos, our friend, the people are with you," and "I did my duty for Colombia and they killed me".

Pizarro, aged 38, a guerrilla leader who transformed M 19 into a political party only last month, was shot dead on an aircraft last Thursday by a 21-year-old gunman. He is the third presidential aspirant to

be killed in Colombia in eight months.

During a stop in the march, Pizarro's second-in-command, Señor Antonio Navarro Wolff, aged 41, an engineer and former guerrilla who lost a leg in a grenade attack on a restaurant in 1985, said he would replace him as presidential candidate.

Police have blamed drug traffickers waging a war on the state for Pizarro's murder, but the drug traffickers denied responsibility and said the murder could not have happened without official involvement.

Hundreds of riot police patrolled the city on Saturday, but marchers respected calls by M 19 leaders for calm, and no violence was reported.

Señor Navarro said M 19 would follow the road of peaceful politics which Pizarro had set them on and vowed that Pizarro's death would not go unpunished.

The Government has said it will allow M 19 to name a replacement candidate even though the registration date has passed. M 19 is a minority party and Pizarro polled less than 5 per cent in an opinion poll published a day before his murder.

The procession went on to Bogotá's main cemetery where Pizarro was buried near Luis Carlos Galán, favourite for the ruling Liberal Party's presidential nomination, who was shot dead last August, leading to a war with the drug traffickers believed to be responsible. (Reuter)

Eavesdroppers get a buzz from tapping into phone calls

From Charles Bremner, New York

THE next time you see someone at the bus-stop wearing earphones and a far-away look, do not assume that music is the source of entertainment. He or she may be enjoying the latest of American hobbies - eavesdropping on telephone calls.

Now that nearly four million Americans use mobile phones and countless more homes boast cordless sets, the air is thick with talk-music. It is boring but some of it is juicy enough for whiling away idle hours, according to amateurs of this new pastime.

Estimates vary, but according to Mr Bob Grove, the publisher of the

monthly *Monitoring Times*, the bible of these vicarious thrill seekers, somewhere between 10 and 20 million people are tuning in to other people's gossip with the help of simple and widely available "scanning" receivers.

"You can say these people are voyeurs if you want," Mr Grove said, over a secure line from his base in North Carolina. "But it's human nature. Suppose you are sitting in a restaurant and you hear someone at the next table say 'Peggy's pregnant but we don't know who the father is', then it's only natural curiosity to want to listen a bit more."

To help out, Mr Grove's company also sells the necessary equip-

ment and books such as *Tune in on Telephone Calls* to help out the neophyte. There is a catch, but it does not annoy Mr Grove too much. Under a 1986 law, it is illegal to listen to cellular-telephone calls, though not to the far shorter-range transmissions from simple cordless sets. These carry only a few hundred yards compared with up to 50 miles for cellular equipment.

The law, say the enthusiasts, represents an unconstitutional infringement on their listening rights and is, anyway, unworkable.

"Nobody asks these transmissions to come into their radios, to enter their homes," Mr Grove says indignantly. No one has yet

been prosecuted for the offence. Unlike Britain, where it is illegal to monitor police frequencies, there is no bar to listening to any radio transmissions in the United States, except the cellular frequencies.

Critics of the booming cell-phone industry say the companies fail to warn customers that eavesdropping is possible. In 1987, a survey in California found that 60 per cent of cellular users were unaware that their conversations could be intercepted.

The industry insists that the technology makes it nearly impossible to listen for any length of time to any one call. This complexity has, for example, prevented police from making use of cellular talk

among drug dealers. But the enthusiasts say the random snatches of conversation are part of the fun.

Mr David Murphy of Boston, an accountant who commutes to work while listening on earphones, says: "It's amazing what you can hear. I've heard my wife, I've heard stock tips, even people talking about sex. I heard a guy call his home and say 'Honey, I'm going to be late'. He hangs up and a second later he calls his girlfriend and says 'Honey, I'll be right over'."

Mr Murphy's remarks, reported in a local newspaper this month, brought public calls for action to halt the hobby.

As anyone knows who crosses lines with other users in the jam-

packed New York air waves, the common factor among calls is banality.

"Sure, a lot of it's boring," counters Mr Grove. "But you try it late on a Friday or a Saturday night and that's when it's fun. Then you have the pimps and prostitutes and drug dealers going about their business."

Stationary telephones are another matter. One family in the New York suburbs recently tapped in on what they realized was suspicious talk when their cordless phone picked up their neighbours'. They tipped off police and the neighbours were convicted of drug possession. Now the neighbours are suing the eavesdroppers.

ANC seeks a 'way forward without any bloodshed'

Cape Town
IF THERE was a way forward without bloodshed, the African National Congress would "grab it with both hands", Mr Joe Slovo, the former exiled secretary-general of the until recently banned South African Communist Party said here yesterday.

Addressing his first public rally on home soil for more than 30 years, Mr Slovo added that there was an unstoppable rising tide of freedom in South Africa.

"We have been told by (President) de Klerk that the door is open. We will be ready to walk through that door if we see real prospect towards change," he told about 15,000 supporters at the Lesepens sports centre in the heart of the Mitchell's Plain mixed-race township near here.

"Short of that, we will batter it down," he said. "It is not

war talk, it is peace talk. We cannot go to the negotiating table ready to abandon majority rule or forgetting that almost all the wealth is between the hands of the white group." He added that when he fled South Africa in 1963 the cry of anti-apartheid activists was "freedom in our lifetime". Today the cry was "Freedom now".

Mr Slovo is one of five ANC leaders who ended their exile last Friday by returning to South Africa to form part of the ANC team which is to start talks about talks with the Pretoria Government on Wednesday.

The other four, Mr Alfred Nzo, the ANC secretary-general, Mr Thabo Mbeki, head of its international department, Mr Joe Modise, commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing, and Miss Ruth Mompati, head of the religion department, shared the platform with him.

Organizers had expected as many as 100,000 people to welcome the leaders home, and blamed the lower turnout on the wintry conditions. Those who did turn up were enthusiastic. Most supporters wore the black, green and yellow colours of the ANC, and the podium was draped in ANC flags and a giant red banner with a star and the hammer and sickle of the Communist Party.

The rally was theoretically illegal because the organizers had not applied to a magistrate for permission to stage it, but police contented themselves with providing security.

After Mr Slovo's address, Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, spoke briefly, revealing that he had been approached by a government minister, whom he did not name, to say that Pretoria was concerned that Mr Slovo had been included in the ANC delegation for the talks. The minister had said it would be difficult for the Government to explain to its supporters that it was talking to communists. (AFP)

● LONDON: Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC's president, has returned to his home and his wife, Adelaide, in London after completing his medical treatment for a stroke in Sweden (Andrew McEwen writes).

It seems unlikely, however, that he will resume active leadership of the ANC which, for practical purposes, has passed to Mr Mandela. An ANC spokesman said Mr Tambo was not yet back at work, although he was in daily touch by telephone. He was continuing his recuperation, but there was no change in his condition.

There has been speculation that Mr Tambo may eventually step down formally to make way for Mr Mandela.

Waldheim 'linked to Nazis by letter'

From Susan Elliott, Washington

THE United States says it has obtained a letter written in 1938 alleging that Mr Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian President, supported the Nazis when he was a student. Publicity of the document, made available by a group of international Jewish organizations, is likely to dim Mr Waldheim's prospects of being struck off a list of Europeans forbidden to visit the US because of their role in the Second World War.

According to a report in *The New York Times*, the author of the letter — the principal of a diplomatic college in Vienna where Mr Waldheim was a student — describes him as a "convicted National Socialist" unable to be active politically for two years because he was on military service in Austria. The letter also says he provided, to fulfil conditions for a scholarship, proof he had four Aryan grandparents.

Mr Waldheim, a former United Nations Secretary-General, and witnesses, including the British publisher, Mr George Weidenfeld, who attended the college with Mr Waldheim, have strongly denied the Austrian leader's support for the Nazi movement.

Mr Waldheim has conceded he was a member of the Nazi movement while a student, but he has defended this on the grounds that he always opposed their activities and considered himself an inactive member. The young Waldheim joined the German Army in 1939, a year after Hitler's army annexed Austria.

The US Justice Department, which received the letter from the World Jewish Congress, an umbrella



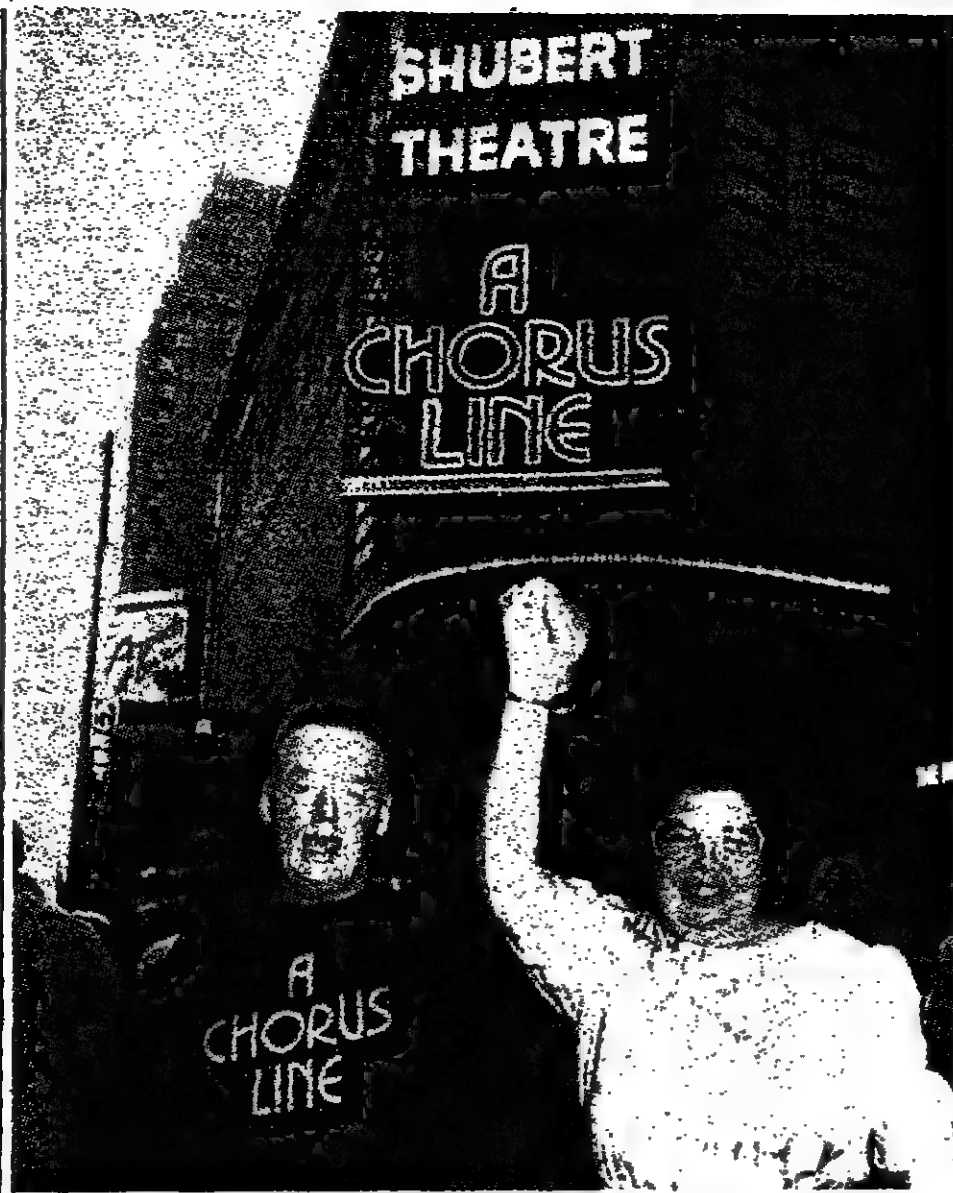
Mr Waldheim: Archive discovery in Vienna

organization of Jewish groups, found evidence four years ago after a vigorous investigation into Mr Waldheim's past that he had taken part in "activities amounting to persecution" of Jews, Greeks and Yugoslavs while he was a member of the German Army.

The same Jewish organization revealed much of the evidence on Mr Waldheim's war record during his election campaign. Mr Waldheim, the first non-Socialist elected as President of Austria since the Second World War, acknowledged he was not completely open about his war activities but denied he was directly involved in any atrocities.

The Austrian Embassy in Washington has said there is no evidence to back allegations that Mr Waldheim was a Nazi supporter during his time at the Consular Academy.

The World Jewish Congress said an American researcher, Mr Richard Mitten, discovered the letter in the archives of the diplomatic college. The document is dated May 18, 1938, and signed by the then principal.



Mr Cockayne and his wife, Betty, ending their Chorus Line marathon on Broadway

Musical fan sees final curtain 338th time

From James Bane, New York

THE final curtain fell this weekend on *A Chorus Line*, the longest running show in Broadway history, bringing to a climax the bizarre career of one of Britain's most fanatical theatre-goers.

Mingling among the teary-eyed thespians at the 6,137th and last performance at the Schubert Theatre on New York's Theatre Row on Saturday night, and later at the cast party at Mamma Leone's restaurant, was Mr Stephen Cockayne, a retired Boots marketing manager from Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

For Mr Cockayne, aged 60, the musical, which tells the stories of 17 dancers competing for eight roles in a Broadway production, was never just — in the words of its most famous song — *One Singular Sensation*.

Since it opened on Broadway on July 25, 1975, Mr Cockayne has seen the show 338 times, mostly in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham, spending an estimated £5,000 tickets in the process.

"If you are a drug addict or a drunk, there is a help-line you can call," he said. "If you are a theatre addict you are on your own. There is no one to help you." Mr Cockayne paid \$500 (£306) for a pair of tickets for Saturday night's benefit performance. And, not

content with just the evening show, he spent another \$100 to attend the matinee the same day. For both performances he wore a formal dinner jacket over his special *A Chorus Line* jersey, a one-off made for him by a friend.

"I love musicals and I love the theatre," he said. "This show is a very professional show, it's very American and it's very New York. It has a lot of things to say. It's about the things of life. It's like watching life going before you. There are points in the show when I go cold," he said.

Mr Cockayne's wife, Betty, has seen the show only about 60 times. She said: "It's my husband. He is crackers about it. I like it very much, but he reads more into it than I do."

Mr Cockayne's obsessive theatre-going dates back to a night in 1947 when, on national service at Aldershot, he was taken by fellow soldiers to the opening night of *Okla-homa* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. He immediately began going to a show every evening, and has never missed an opening night at the Theatre Royal since. When he got married almost 30 years ago, he began to go to the theatre with his wife. "We don't like sport," she said.

After *A Chorus Line*, Mr Cockayne's favourite musical is *West Side Story*, which he

has seen about 150 times. He prefers American to British shows. The hit British musical *Cats* he has seen only once.

"I did like *Phantom of the Opera*, but I was not into *Cats* and *Starlight Express*. My wife liked *Evita* and I didn't think it was too bad. They are a throwback to the old type of theatre, the Ivor Novello thing," he said.

The closing of *A Chorus Line* was also an emotional moment for the New York theatre world. Born out of 40 hours of taped conversations at a dancers' workshop, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical was the quintessential Broadway show, summing up the frustrations of the thousands of aspirant stars. Its creator, Michael Bennett, died of Aids in 1987 at the age of 44.

For years, *A Chorus Line* provided a steady cash flow for the impresario who staged the first production, Mr Joseph Papp, director of the New York Shakespeare Festival. The loss of that income comes at an awkward time for Mr Papp, who only last week refused a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts instead of signing a guarantee that he would not sponsor events loosely defined as obscene. A television game-show producer has offered to put up the money instead.

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KGB chief says he now answers to Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

THE KGB is no longer accountable to the Soviet Communist Party, but to the President and his presidential council, according to Mr Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB.

This apparent change in the KGB's status was made known the day after President Gorbachov had issued a decree promoting General Dmitry Yazov, the Defence Minister, to the rank of marshal.

General Yazov's promotion came as preparations were finalized for a big military parade that will be held in Red Square on Victory Day, May 9, the anniversary of the end of the Soviet Union calls the Great Patriotic War.

When the parade was announced by presidential decree last month, it was partly regarded as a way of placating those Russians who ask, in the light of moves towards German reunification, whether they or the Germans won the war. It was also seen, however, as a gesture by the Kremlin to assure the military that it was

still important and could count on the leadership's enduring support.

A series of developments — some planned, some not — have contributed to a sharp fall in the morale of the Soviet armed forces. They include the sweeping arms and troop cuts ordered by President Gorbachov at international negotiations, Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, Eastern Europe and Mongolia; the questionable viability of the Warsaw Pact after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe; the evacuation of troops and their dependents from the southern republic of Azerbaijan in January; and the housing and employment problems facing newly demobilized officers.

These difficulties have combined with the outright refusal of many 18-year-olds in the Baltic states to register for military service — and an increase in pacifist sentiment across the country generally — to leave the military confused and uncertain.

Unexpected public criticism of the armed assault on Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, in January, and President Gorbachov's refusal so far to use overt armed force in the rebel republic of Lithuania have left the Soviet public with the idea that the military has lost much of the political clout it used to enjoy under Brezhnev.

General Yazov's promotion, as well as having symbolic value for the Soviet armed forces in general, may also have personal significance. He has been implicated both in the now vilified decision to use poison gas against civilian demonstrators in the Georgian capital Tbilisi a year ago, and in the order to send tanks against Azerbaijani nationalists in Baku. His role in the first decision in particular has never been fully clarified, and his position as Defence Minister has been considered in jeopardy ever since. He is also identified in the minds of Soviet reformers as one of the Kremlin's leading conservatives.

General Yazov's promotion may be a sign that he has now been cleared by the party of any perceived misdeeds, or it could indicate simply that the political balance in the Kremlin has tipped in his favour. It might, on the other hand, be the price exacted for his imminent retirement, perhaps after he has presided over the May 9 parade.

Details of the changed accountability of the KGB were given by Mr Kryuchkov in an interview with Tass, reported yesterday, which claimed also that the role of the KGB was being rethought. Mr Kryuchkov was quoted by Tass as saying that the KGB's most important function now would be "the preparation of information for the Soviet President". It was particularly important "in this complicated and volatile situation", he said, that state bodies and other decision-makers had "precise, verified and reliable information". He was also quoted as saying that the KGB's "analytical services" could draw conclusions and give advice.

He stressed that the work of the KGB, which many regard as a law unto itself, would be regulated and scrutinized by the Supreme Soviet under a new law. Whether the shift to state and parliamentary oversight makes any practical difference, however, depends on whether the long-promised separation of party, state and parliamentary powers is ever realized.

Berlin is ready to consider Nato link

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

HERR Lothar de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister, said yesterday that his country favoured Nato membership for a united Germany if the Western military alliance fundamentally transformed its "structures and strategies". But the Soviet side had reaffirmed its opposition to German membership of Nato, calling it unacceptable.

He also expressed the hope that a treaty on reunification could be ready by the end of the summer. His views, revealed at the end of a two-day visit to Moscow, were the latest refinement in an increasingly urgent search by the Kremlin for a formula under which the two Germanies can be united without, as President Gorbachov has insisted, affecting the balance of security in Europe. Equally important for the Soviet Union is not to give the impression that East Germany has been won by the West or lost by the East.

According to Herr de Maizière, who spent two hours in talks with Mr Gorbachov yesterday morning, the Soviet leader had stated explicitly that Nato membership for a united Germany was "unacceptable". However, he had accepted the East German proposal as a point of departure. Moscow has been calling for Nato and the Warsaw Pact to be political rather than military alliances for more than two years.

Herr de Maizière said that the formula proposed by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in an interview with the *Irish Times* at the weekend had not been discussed. This had suggested "non-aligned" status rather than neutrality for a united Germany.

Herr de Maizière also indicated that Moscow had expressed concern about East German-Soviet trade — in particular, moves for future payments for East German goods to be in hard currency rather than at Comecon prices which do not reflect world market values.



President Gorbachov faces Herr Lothar de Maizière, East Germany's Prime Minister, across the table in Moscow at the start of their first talks

Enterprise fills Moscow information vacuum

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

ONE of the books essential to foreigners in the Soviet capital and sought-after by Russians is *Information Moscow*, which is printed in Britain and sells for hard currency.

In a city still without comprehensive telephone directories, the book lists government offices, travel agencies, hotels, embassies and their staff, and all resident journalists. Its other virtue, though this is less often recognized, is that it is one of the few purely factual sources of information available in the Soviet Union even now. It can be taken at face value.

Glasnost ended the obvious dearth of information in Moscow, and not just because it brought diversity to the official press and fostered an unofficial press that dealt with everything from the monarchist movement to Mrs Raisa Gorbachov's image. Correspondents are now bombarded with invitations to press conferences and rung up — or even visited — several times a day by individuals trying to sell information or advertise their cause.

We could all spend several hours a day attending officially sponsored press events alone. Regular briefings by the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry are interspersed with invitations to question visiting foreign statesmen, the Moscow city authorities, or the editor of *Pravda*. We are summoned by telephone, telex or Tass to attend the signings of joint venture agreements or — since Mr Gorbachov made himself Executive President — hear his newly appointed press spokesman, Mr Arkadi Maslennikov, set out the thoughts of his chief.

There is little ambiguity about where the information comes from, or whose interests it represents. Although there are some lines to be read between and some pinches of salt to be taken, the comments can be quoted and interpreted. Last week Mr Maslennikov made an impressive effort to present Mr Gorbachov's latest economic remarks as indicating a speeding-up of reform.

when every adjective ("careful", "well-thought-out", "measured") suggested a slowing down. But the game was well played by both sides.

The problems with *glasnost* lie elsewhere. Last Wednesday, in the first break during the Chernobyl debate in Parliament, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, appeared unannounced in the lobby. He was at once surrounded by reporters and proceeded to comment for more than an hour on Chernobyl, Lithuania and economic reform.

This raised innumerable questions, the main one being why he had chosen to walk the lobbies then. He has been under the political weather



Mr Ryzhkov: Puzzle over unannounced appearance

recently and his sudden accessibility coincided with Mr Gorbachov's first trip since he became President. On Chernobyl, Mr Ryzhkov clearly wanted to defend his role as chairman of the original emergency commission after the disaster, which has been charged with delay and incompetence. His remarks on Lithuania — the clearest statement to date that Lithuania had to return to the status quo before March 11 if Moscow was to agree to talks — seemed to express leadership policy. On the economy, where he expressed himself in favour of "moderation", against private land ownership, but for radical change, the intention was

unclear. Was he speaking for himself, for the Government, for the Politburo? Was he campaigning, as a Western politician might, against his rumoured dismissal? Was he, perhaps, communicating a message from the leadership? Or was he simply not adept enough at dealing with the press to extricate himself?

Mr Ryzhkov provided last week's biggest information mystery, but the semi-official news agency, *Interfax*, ran him a close second. *Glasnost* and the search for hard currency earnings have encouraged the establishment of new information agencies, usually with some official tie-in and a degree of editorial independence. The difficulty lies in determining where the official tie-in stops and the independence starts, and where the quest for hard currency fits in.

For two days, *Interfax* and its chief rival called, confusingly, *Post Factum*, exchanged affirmations and denials that Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister, was about to retire. They also reported on Lithuania and the likelihood of Moscow-Vilnius talks. Some of the reports are accurate, others not.

The exceptions to *glasnost* would come almost as a relief, were the authorities not so keen to present them as something else. When Mr Gorbachov went to Sverdlovsk last week, no foreign journalists went with him. Sverdlovsk has long been a closed city, but we were told that the visit was too short, there would be nothing to see.

Least honest of all is the current position with Lithuania. In common with every troubled republic of the Soviet empire, it has been summarily closed to foreign correspondents. For the past two weeks, however, groups of Moscow-based reporters, shepherded by the Foreign Ministry, have been admitted for a few days. The impression is thereby created that Lithuania is "open", when it is in fact closed — with a seal that is increasingly hermetic.

Ukrainian party 'plotting for opposition ban'

From Robert Seely, Kiev

SECRET Communist Party plans to undermine nationalist support in the western Ukraine have been leaked to the republic's main opposition group. Among other actions, the central committee of the Ukrainian party proposes to disband its "disloyal" cells, sack senior pro-democracy Communists, and press for main opposition groups to be outlawed.

The battle plans, leaked to a senior official from Rukh, the Ukrainian popular movement, have been drawn up to stamp out an increasingly vocal pro-independence organization in the western Ukraine. The document is reported to have been read to a closed session of key party members from the republic's party central committee in Kiev within the past 10 days.

Copies of the statement were also said to have been sent to the 27 regional party bosses throughout the republic and to "ideological" ministries, such as education and culture. Details of the meeting were written down by a pro-Rukh Communist insider and given to the group's election organizer, Mr Sergei Odarych, last week.

In total, the central committee has drawn up a 12-point action plan, to be monitored by a special team headed by the conservative hardliner, Mr Yuri Yelchenko. It promises to "analyse" the work of — thought to be a euphemism for "dismiss" — newspaper editors, industrial managers and party officials who are thought to belong to the pro-democracy movement.

A special party fund will pay high-ranking party bosses who have lost their seats in the recent elections. The mass media will be "asked" to "give appropriate appraisal of treasons in councils", suggesting that pro-democracy and pro-independence councillors are to be marginalized in newspaper and television reports. The same order also applies to the myriad of unofficial newspapers and magazines that have appeared in recent months.

Other actions will include a tightening up of ideological work in Komsomol (the Young Communist League) and the strengthening of committee leaderships on local councils.

However, the most far-reaching plans relate to what appears to be an attempt to disband the opposition groups altogether. The two most important are Rukh and the

Ukraine Helsinki Union, which will between them control almost 30 per cent of the Ukrainian supreme soviet (parliament) when it first convenes on May 15 in Kiev. The central committee proposes "to ask the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to analyse the legality of the creation of social organizations".

Separatist-minded councils will also face legal pressure from the authorities. Those which come under suspicion, who will include any who fly the blue and yellow flags of independent Ukraine rather than the red and blue communist version, could find their decisions outlawed.

The central committee said that it would "declare unlawful the decisions of local councils who do not conform to the constitution". In line with the tougher regime, the presidium last week ordered a crackdown on organizers of unauthorized rallies and officials aiding them.

Chernobyl hero has transplant

Seattle

A SOVIET pilot who got radiation poisoning from his efforts to stem the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was described as relieved, as the wait began to see if new bone marrow will save his life.

Mr Anatoly Grishchenko, aged 53, who suffers from a pre-leukaemia condition, has been honoured in the Soviet Union for his work to put a cement cap on the reactor.

In the four days after the explosion and fire, Mr Grishchenko made five flights over Chernobyl through hot, intensely radioactive gases, spraying from the plant, to survey the damage and to dump tons of sand and wet concrete.

He received the marrow in an eight-hour procedure completed on Saturday, said Miss Susan Edmonds, spokeswoman for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre. "There are no problems," she said. "The next step is to see if the marrow will grow."

The marrow was taken from the hip of an anonymous 42-year-old Frenchwoman early on Friday in Besancon, France, and flown to Seattle, one day after the fourth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. (AP)

Latvians consider reshaped Soviet Union

From Anatol Lieven, Riga

A QUESTION of crucial importance to the countries now included in the Soviet Union lurched into the open at a meeting of Latvian Popular Front deputies in Riga yesterday: the possibility of a future Soviet "confederation" to replace the present "union".

The draft resolution on independence, which the Popular Front majority will present to the Latvian supreme soviet when it meets on Thursday, makes no mention of any long-term constitutional link between Latvia and the Soviet Union. It declares Latvian sovereignty on the Lithuanian pattern — unlike Lithuania, but like Estonia, it establishes a period of transition towards the realization of that sovereignty.

However, at the weekend a Latvian delegation visited Moscow to hold discussions with Soviet officials concerning a proposal for confederation. This had been put forward to Mr Gorbachov at a meeting on April 19 by members of the present, Communist government of Latvia, which is certain to be largely replaced when the supreme soviet meets.

The delegation consisted of three Latvian government representatives, including Mr Mirvaldis Ramans, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Eizans Poica, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Janis Abolins, the Economy Minister. The latter is expected to remain in the new government and Popular Front deputies believe that the confederation plan may have been hatched between him and Mr Brezis, the outgoing Prime Minister.

The Latvian delegation also included two Popular Front deputies, Mr Ilmar Biser and Mr Mavrek Wolfson, who claimed that they learned of the confederation idea only on the flight to Moscow.

Reporting to the Popular Front deputies yesterday, Mr Biser said that the confederation idea was raised after Latvian representatives had rejected Mr Gorbachov's offer on April 19 of "special status within the Soviet Union".

Mr Gorbachov agreed that a "confederation" might be possible, and representatives were appointed on both sides to discuss it further.

Mr Biser told the meeting yesterday that, despite having been taken by surprise by the plan, he gave it his full support. He said that at the meeting they had made it quite clear that the Latvian concept of a confederation was of an agreement between two equal and sovereign states. He said: "The other side had a different conception, but listened to us with great attention."

Mr Biser said the next meeting to discuss this issue is planned for May 15, and the new Latvian government will have to decide whether to go through with this.

Among the Popular Front deputies who support the idea that the Latvian declaration of independence should be accompanied by a proposal of confederation to Moscow is international lawyer Dr Juris Boya. He did not rule out the possibility that such a confederation might include some sort of representative body in Moscow "on the pattern of the European parliament".

A Latvian-American analyst commenting on the Latvian proposal yesterday said that in so far as it might be acceptable to Moscow, "there could be a great deal of pressure not just on Latvia but also on Lithuania to go this way. On the other hand, it might give the Lithuanians an honourable way out of their present situation." (AP)

Pravda fears economy on skids

Moscow

THE Communist Party daily *Pravda* yesterday painted a picture of the Soviet economy running out of control, adding to the pressure for an overhaul of the entire system.

Pravda said first-quarter statistics for 1990 showed nose-diving production, rising foreign debt, a mounting trade

deficit with the West and runaway inflation.

At the same time the country's credit-worthiness was being increasingly challenged by Western bankers, cranking the Kremlin's ability to buy time by easing enormous demand for consumer goods.

The gloomy economic portrait follows signs of serious

disagreement at the highest levels of government, forcing delays in the release of a radical economic programme.

President Gorbachov's advisory council has so far failed to complete work on the package, torn between the desire for immediate change and fears of giving too big a shock to society. (Reuter)

Solidarity shows strain of trying to fill democratic vacuum

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

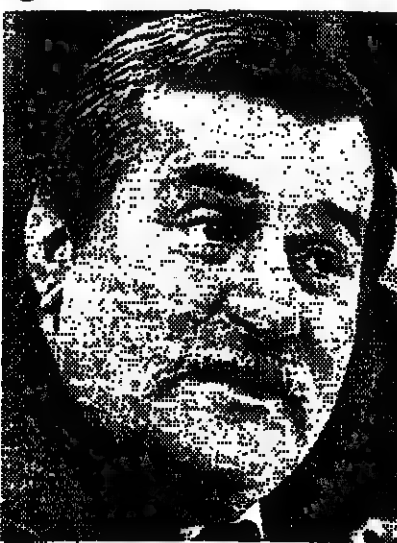
THE Solidarity congress which ended here last week raised some important questions, not only about the dismantling of communism, but also about the frailty of the new democracy.

Throughout there was a steady throbbing of criticism against the whole Government. Solidarity as a union is putting itself in opposition to Solidarity as government, thus exposing one of the central weaknesses of the 1989 East European revolution.

Communism, as a system of rule, has been shattered; parliaments have replaced politburos, prime ministers have gained new strengths; a purge of communist-dominated institutions has been set in motion. But no significant opposition parties have emerged.

The fall of communism discredits most left-wing parties, at least for the time being. For the most part, either the new leaderships are edging towards grand coalitions, or a dominant revolutionary body (perhaps containing the seeds of several parties) is filling the seats vacated by the communists.

Poland is in the most complex position. Its revolution was driven by the energy of workers, yet its Govern-



Divided they rule: Mr Walesa and Mr Mazowiecki, twin pillars of Solidarity's key problem — having to be in opposition to itself



ment is committed to unemployment and price rises. The result is a vague sense of betrayal.

That is one reason Mr Lech Walesa, re-elected chairman of Solidarity, chose to attack intellectuals during the congress. He was piqued, of course, by

suggestions that he might not be bright enough to be president.

"Dear intellectuals," he sneered, "I can read, you know. I practise every night." But the real point was that the former intellectual advisers to Solidarity — Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Profes-

sor Bronislaw Geremek — are now at the core of government, respectively Prime Minister and head of the Solidarity parliamentary caucus.

Yet they are only in government because of the workers, because of the union. And the union, in turn, can withdraw its support.

Trades unions are now under stress everywhere. Sweden has for long been an example for Solidarity, with the union federation helping to shape legislation and in constant contact with the Social Democratic Government.

But the Swedish consensus is breaking down as the Government is forced to consider introducing more market elements. Solidarity-as-a-union (its internal politics a mixed bag of social democracy, Christian democracy and nationalism) is losing its common language with Solidarity-as-a-government. In 1981 the dissident Mr Jacek Kuron celebrated his speech by downing a bottle of Johnny Walker with his Solidarity cronies; in 1990 Labour Minister Kuron (still in jeans, of course) got into his official limousine and was driven back to his plush offices in Warsaw.

First, though, he had to admit to the Solidarity congress that the Government had not yet worked out a proper social

welfare system: market reforms were speeding ahead and people were dropping by the wayside already.

Even M Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, concedes that a social welfare network has to be in place as the new democracies move towards the market. Yet as long as the free trades unions are merely supportive of government, there is no pressure to do so.

Mr Walesa's model for Solidarity is probably closer to the AFL-CIO, the US union federation, a muscular organization functioning in an aggressive market economy. It has a lobby in government, sponsors politicians and cannot be described as wishy-washy left-wing.

The strike weapon is all very well against rich, exploitative management, but against a churchmouse-poor government, populated by Solidarity sympathizers, conventional strikes seem at the best insensitive.

Mr Walesa does not have much of a grasp of bread and butter union issues — he dodged questions on pensions and rights for disabled workers. Instead he wants to use the union as a springboard for the presidency of Poland.

That, he argues, would put Solidarity in the vanguard of change again. Mr

Walesa, as even his political friends say, may be autocratic, conceited and personally ambitious, but he is not responsible for the current crisis of identity in the union. The problems are rooted in 45 years of communist control and dislocation.

The Marxist ideology was grafted on to essentially peasant society in Poland, Hungary and the Balkan states. The newly created working class, wrenched from the farms and housed in vast suburban slums, were shepherded into neutered unions that did little more than organize Black Sea holidays.

Thanks to Mr Walesa and Solidarity the workers of Eastern Europe have now found a voice. But they are being asked almost immediately to muzzle themselves, to support governments that are in certain key respects anti-worker.

In the bad old days, the workers tumbled out to the streets every time the communists announced a big price rise. Now prices go up daily and wages are effectively frozen — all by a Solidarity-sponsored Government.

The workers are confused, but mainly they are angry. Many give up and emigrate. But this does little to ease the pressure cooker at home: the workers of Poland are reaching boiling point.

Reform gains pace in enclave of Stalinism

DESPITE 40 years of Stalinism and a natural backwardness which is the most serious in Europe, the Albanians have preserved the hospitable traditions which Byron, Edith Durham and, during the Second World War, the pick of the Special Operations Executive found so winning.

When a foreigner enters an Albanian home, no easy matter given the controlled nature of society here, he is nothing less than a sacred guest. When he leaves, he will carry greetings, not only to his country, but also to his parents; if there is a garden, his patriarchal host will give him a rose, symbol of the hope that he will return one day.

Unfortunately, the new order superimposes other conditions. His host will be questioned closely by "neighbours" who have a habit of dropping in a few minutes after the foreigner has arrived. Attempts to renew contact, by telephone are invariably fruitless. As the Albanian-lorry drivers, who regularly travel by Italian ship to Trieste to pick up Danish refrigerators know all too well, the eyes of the *sigurimi* (secret police) are all-seeing.

On board the ships of the Venice-based Adriatic Line, their agents masquerade as engineering students, fashionably dressed in white socks. Only when the ship reaches Durres, on the Albanian coast, do they give themselves away by producing two-way radios.

In Tirana, officials claim that unlike the detested Romanian Securitate, the *sigurimi* are "not a military caste" but "part of the people". But in a country where poverty is still widespread and where many have access to Italian, Yugoslav and Greek television programmes, resentment towards a privileged elite appears to be growing.

The faces which greet official cars in villages betray little respect. Even conscripts look with hostility on the Tirana limousines of VIPs.

However, unlike Romania's Ceausescu, Mr Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, enjoys widespread respect. In particular, young Albanians who have few good words for communism can be heard pinning their hopes on his apparently sincere commitment to reform.

Unfortunately, the reforms announced by Mr Alia last week after the tenth plenum of the ruling Central Committee are unlikely to be enough for the younger generation.

Mr Alia is clearly under pressure from two directions

Change is in the air in Albania and, with it, the first public signs of discontent. Richard Bassett reports from the capital, Tirana

to change the existing structures. A generation of university students, having watched on Italian TV the events of last winter in Eastern Europe, is demanding democracy. There are many reports from Albanians of demonstrations in Kavaje and in Shkoder.

Small bombs have been hurled at Stalin's bust in Tirana and the late communist leader Enver Hoxha's bookshop in Tirana. The bookshop, housed in Hoxha's former tobacco shop, where the founder of modern Stalinist Albania worked before the war, is a particularly vulnerable monument. For the past two weeks, plain-clothed policemen have mounted an hourly guard opposite its crumbling facade.

More critical for Mr Alia, however, is the pressure for economic reform from a new generation of technocrats within the ruling elite. They are mostly sons of former ministers, from families which remain powerbrokers.

They are well-educated and have enjoyed the opportunity of travel abroad. To the alarm of an older generation here, they view with increasing anxiety the backward state of their country. They are above all Albanian patriots.

To this end, Mr Alia called, during the plenum for the re-establishing of diplomatic relations with the superpowers. Albania is also keen to resume links with Britain and negotiate a resolution to the Corfu Channel incident. Albanian gold reserves were blocked by Britain in retaliation for Tirana's refusal to accept responsibility for the incident in 1946.

France and Italy have long-established embassies. The

Greek and Italian embassies are regularly besieged by would-be refugees. One Albanian family has been living in the Italian Embassy for several years, unable to leave with any guarantee of safety. The Greek Embassy has had to cope with people who clamber through the barbed-wire fence and sneak past sentries to seek political asylum.

Mr Alia and his closest colleagues know that, without serious reforms, discontent cannot be controlled much longer. But in attempting to grant concessions, he appears hindered by the legacy of Hoxha, whose apparatus, rumoured to be well-organized by his widow, is unwilling to share power and embrace change.

The apparatus is particularly strongly represented in the interior and foreign ministries, though its influence seems to be waning in the younger Economics Ministry. But it still wields tremendous influence over lives of Albanians, and foreigners lucky enough to receive an official invitation to the country.

Last week it appeared that elements within the apparatus were so opposed to the reforms that they were even prepared to attempt to suppress news of Mr Alia's speech after the plenum to foreigners visiting Tirana.

The younger generation is increasingly irritated by this refusal to change old methods of dealing with foreigners. To the visible horror of the older generation, many of the young technocrats are also supporters of religion, and refuse, even in public, to state the official line, that the Albanian people were "never religious". This year Easter

was celebrated in some village houses by old priests. According to a French diplomat in Tirana, in one village near Elbasan an Orthodox priest helped celebrate a service. Three of his friends had been cut off by the Communists in the 1950s.

It is the memory of these cruelties which gives rise to the all-pervasive fear which grips the younger generation despite their impatience for change. Students tell of friends condemned to 25 years in prison simply for encouraging a demonstration.

But fear is not only the prerogative of the younger generation of Albanians. The authorities, too, have shown in the past few days signs of unease. There are more guards in Tirana this week than last.

Next month, for the first time, there will be no official celebration on May 1 of the workers' holiday in Albania's cities. The students are being organized into groups to go for "walks and picnics" in the mountains in an attempt to avoid any potentially inflammatory incidents.

Meanwhile, Tirana is a city of rumours. One evening a man was dragged screaming from the civic authority's headquarters behind Standerbeg Square. Two civilians bundled him into a bus which then drove off. The crowd which had gathered discreetly to watch this resumed appearance which suggested they had seen nothing unusual. The Albanians, long used to living discreetly under repression, show in a sudden change of glance when it is safe to talk or not.

Despite the sale of millions of copies of Hoxha's *The Anglo-American Threat*, a tale of "wicked, chocolate-munching" British cavalry officers bent on subverting Albanian democracy, the Albanians regard the British with the deepest respect. In the language of present day Albania no one says Britain is a "democratic" country, but rather that it is "one of the most developed" countries in the world. This is the highest compliment Albanians can give. They hope that it will not be too long before their land, too, becomes a "developed" country.



Sympathizers of a Cracow political cabaret holding effigies of former Soviet Presidents Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev, parodying a May 1 march outside the former Communist Party Central Committee HQ in Warsaw

Thousands protest in Romania

Timisoara THOUSANDS of demonstrators staged anti-government rallies in at least four Romanian towns yesterday to demand the sacking of Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President.

About 15,000 people in the Western city of Timisoara, birthplace of the December uprising which toppled Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed dictator, denounced Mr Iliescu and his ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) as neo-communists.

Protests have increased over the past week in advance of the country's first free elections for more than half a century, on May 20, in which Mr Iliescu is the Front's presidential candidate.

Demonstrators jammed the ornate Opera Square in the shadow of the towering cathedral chanting "Down with

Iliescu" and "NSF is another name for the Romanian Communist Party".

Mr George Serban, a leader of Timisoara's main opposition group, told the cheering crowd: "If the former nomenclature (Communist Party establishment) holds on to power, then there was no revolution in Romania. Then it was merely a popular revolt followed by a coup."

Posters reading "Down with Iliescu", "Iliescu, another Ceausescu", "Iliescu KGB" and "Down with the Securitate" were brandished by the crowd. They also waved banners saying: "We don't want communism with a human face", and "The NSF is an offspring of communism".

Mrs Doina Cornea, a dissident of long standing under the old regime, was given an ovation when she spoke up in

support of anti-government demonstrators in Bucharest and called for the fight against communism to continue.

The crowd also applauded speakers from the new National Alliance of the Timisoara Declaration, which was set up on Saturday, and Mr Nica Leon, the National Liberal Party chairman.

At Constanta, Romania's main Black Sea port, thousands of anti-government demonstrators and Front supporters shouted insults at each other.

In the Transylvanian town of Cluj, rival demonstrators confronted each other but there were no reports of violence. Demonstrators in Bucharest, who have massed in the central University Square for eight days, hung up a banner proclaiming "Neo-communist-free zone of Romania". (Reuters, AFP)

Moscow joins in condemning US

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

TOP-level Soviet-Syrian talks here at the weekend brought a strong condemnation of US policy in the Middle East, but no agreement by Moscow to curb the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

After four hours of what seem at times to have been stormy talks, Tass said President Gorbachev and President Assad of Syria had agreed US policy in the Middle East was "even worse than that of the previous Administration". As a result, "Israeli leaders have no incentive to search for a real way out of the deadlock. Their actions are aggressive."

This is the strongest criticism of the United States

leadership to emerge from the Kremlin for some time, but it is unclear whether it reflected real Soviet unhappiness with US policy in the Middle East or on Lithuania - or whether it was a concession by Mr Gorbachev to a disgruntled Syrian leader concerned that Soviet military and moral support was at risk.

During the meeting Mr Gorbachev also went out of his way to defend the socialist credentials of reform efforts in the Soviet Union, a move which could have been addressed as much to Soviet as to Arab opinion.

President Assad, who was making his first visit to Moscow for three years, made representations about the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, a subject which has brought bitter complaints from several Arab countries since the number of emigrants started to increase two years ago.

Tass said Mr Gorbachev had appreciated the Syrian position but "denied all allegations about the existence of any 'volition' between the Soviet Union and the United States".

President Assad was accompanied by his defence and foreign ministers, who met their Soviet counterparts. It was possible to divine from Soviet media reports a high level of concern on the part of Syria that Moscow was not doing enough to support the Arab cause and might even be preparing to "sell-out" to the United States in the Middle East. This is one of the few regions of the world where tension has not diminished over the past two years, and it will be discussed at next month's Washington summit.

Jerusalem: Israeli officials said yesterday that Bulgaria would restore diplomatic relations with Israel this week, the fourth reformist government in East Europe to end a 23-year break in ties.

And Nicaragua, led by newly-elected President Chamorro, has also decided to resume relations with the Jewish state. Mr Muli Amichai, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. (Reuters)

Second jail protest in France

Lille - Inmates held a rooftop protest at a jail in the northern French town of Douai yesterday, hours after a similar demonstration ended at a prison 40 miles away. Police said 50 prisoners refused to return to their cells after exercise. (Reuters)

Calm returns

Kathmandu - Nepalese police, who stopped work after mobs killed eight colleagues, have resumed work as heavy rains and a strict curfew restored calm after weeks of often-violent pro-democracy protests. (Reuters)

Somali floods

Mogadishu - Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated after heavy flooding in the normally arid southern Somalia area, where scores of villages have been submerged or isolated. (Reuters)

Change of tack

Phnom Penh - The Khmer Rouge is shifting its strategy from terror to propaganda by trying to gain a strong rural foothold in advance of possible elections, Cambodian officials and diplomats said here. (AFP)

Briton honoured

Tokyo - Japan has announced the 4,495 recipients of its annual spring awards. Among 23 foreigners cited is Mr Julian Ridsdale, head of the Britain-Japan Parliamentary Union. (AP)

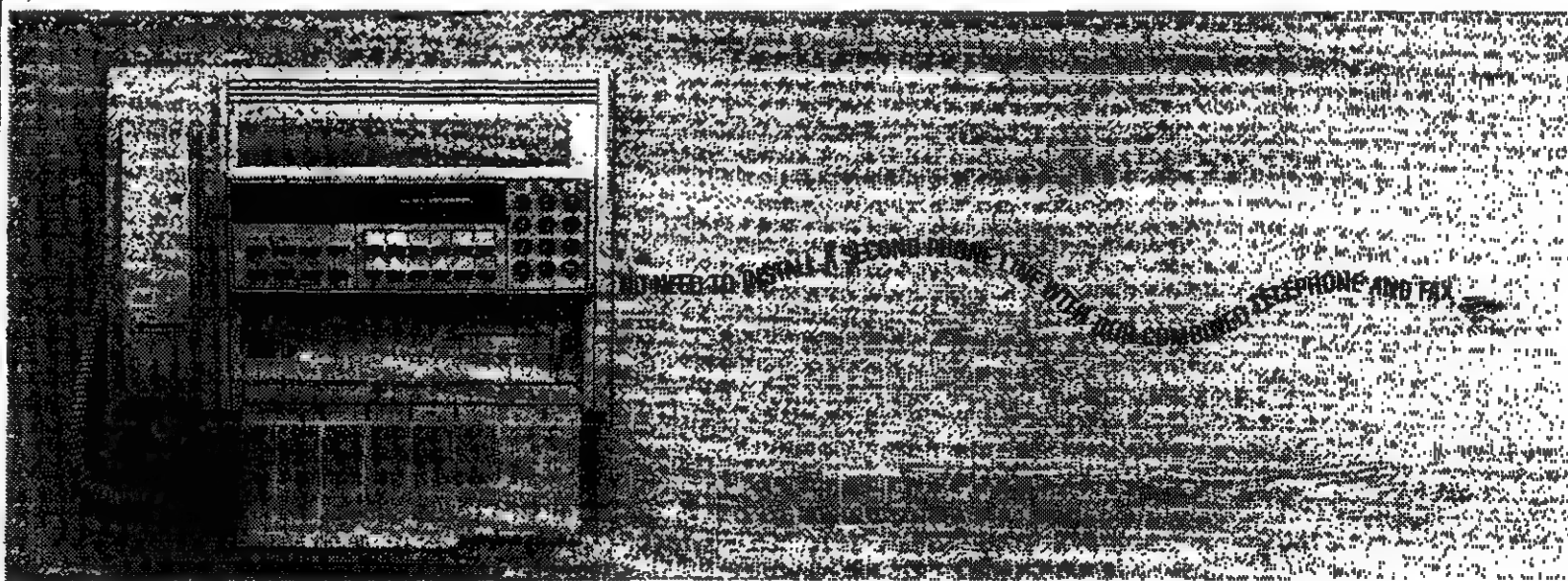
Party disbands

Helinski - Finland's Communist Party, founded 72 years ago, has been disbanded and replaced by the Left-Wing Union in an attempt to save the socialist movement. (AP)

Exit ban

Jammu, India - The Government has banned residents of Kashmir from leaving the disputed region, which is torn by a violent Muslim separatist revolt. (Reuters)

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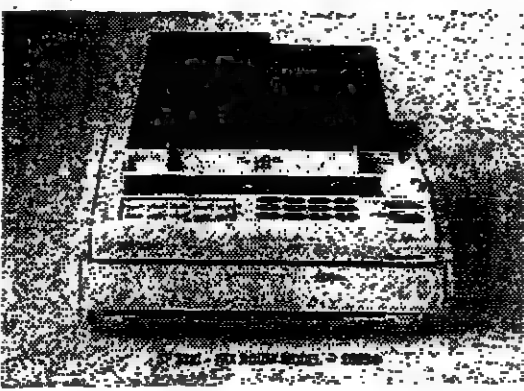
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Thatcher calls their bluff

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees no substance in the Paris-Bonn enthusiasm for Euro unity

Ms Thatcher's political troubles are manifold and grave, but surely the least among them is her supposed isolation over a hypothetical entity going by the name of European political unity.

It is true that she does not want to give up the sovereignty of her country. But no European leader wants to make such a concession; no European country is prepared for anything of the kind. This should become apparent when the foreign ministers report on the six-week study period ordered by the summit.

The illusion of an impending United States of Europe — Chancellor Kohl's phrase — has been engendered by the French and German governments for reasons which are quite different but capable of being expressed, for the moment, in terms of a joint aspiration towards European political unity.

On the German side, to appear to take the lead in a supposed surge towards European unity meets the needs of the real surge, which is towards German unity. The notion of European unity is used to put to rest the nagging fears which the notion of a united Germany arouses in the bosoms of other Europeans. Herr Kohl believes such fears are groundless, for this united Germany will be part of a United States of Europe; no more of a menace to other European states than the state of Pennsylvania is to Delaware.

The French have different reasons for being enthusiastic about European unity. They see it as a means of keeping a united Germany under control. Their politicians and diplomats have long believed themselves to be exerting some kind of control over West Germany through the institutions of the Community. That control now needs to be strengthened so that an enlarged Germany can still be securely "enclosed".

The French have a pertinent metaphor about a horse. French officials like to explain — to non-Germans — the concept that is, in their view, central to the working of the Community. This is the concept of a "partnership between horse and rider". The horse is Germany under control; the rider is French political intelligence. As it happens, the physical appearance of the present leaders of the two nations embodies this metaphor, with Herr Kohl easily perceived as the massive, ponderous horse, and M. Mitterrand the craggy little jockey.

To those of us who are not French, the idea of France being in a position of control over West Germany and about to extend that control over a united Germany may not seem very plausible. But to the French it is congenial, and therefore credible. They find the idea of European political unity acceptable, not because they have

the slightest intention of abandoning any jot or tittle of French sovereignty, but because they see political unity as a smart wheeze for curbing the exercise of German sovereignty. When M. Mitterrand and Herr Kohl make a joint statement on European political unity, the French see their clever president as leading that *boche* round by the nose. This naturally enhances their affection and esteem for him.

Of its nature, the Franco-German alliance on European political unity cannot have a long life. Its maximum duration will be the same as that of the "two-plus-four" talks on German unity. Once those talks have resulted in agreement, the usefulness of European political unity as a topic of conversation will be at an end as far as Germany is concerned. And then the clever jockey in the tricolour silks will find that he is riding for a fall.

In the meantime, the British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, should not find the discussions of the foreign ministers on political unity too difficult. Nobody really wants a United States of Europe. Even Herr Kohl has no intention of allowing his own office to divulge to that of a state governor under a European president possessing powers, authority and prestige similar to those of the president of the United States of America.

At the meetings of the foreign ministers, any proposals from the German side are likely to be cosmetic, corresponding to the essentially cosmetic nature of the whole exercise from a German point of view. As for the French, it will tax even the celebrated sagacity of their diplomats to come up with the formula they need, which is one that will leave French sovereignty intact while tying down the Germans.

By requiring the foreign ministers to examine the question and report back, Mrs Thatcher has called the Franco-German bluff over political unity and has put Mr Hurd in a strong position. When Mrs Thatcher said "no political unity", she meant what she said. But when President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl said "political unity", they meant a lot less than what they appeared to be saying. Just how much less will emerge from the meetings of the foreign ministers.

I expect there will be some tinkering with the European Parliament to make it look a little bit less of a nonsense than it is at present, but any extension of the powers of the European Parliament is likely to be at the expense of the Commission, rather than of national parliaments. Mr Hurd will have little difficulty in fending off threats to the British crown and parliament.

In fact, he should have quite an enjoyable time.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The cost of the Strangeways riot has been variously estimated at sums between £6 million and £20 million. This "investment" (to use the term preferred by forward-thinking people for public-sector subsidies) will be made by the taxpayer. So it was as a shareholder, so to speak, that I studied the newspaper picture of one of the prisoners who have triggered this investment. A glance at his face did not encourage confidence that such of his life as remains to be lived is likely to justify so much expenditure. The thought occurred that the project ought to be scrapped.

And was banished. The thought occurs often and is always banished, for I am not a fascist, merely a suppressed fascist like everyone else.

I first faced this problem as an MP. Of my 100,000 constituents, I estimate that 99,950 generated 1 per cent of the constituency vote. This was not because they had no problems, but because they were disposed to sort them out for themselves. This meant that when they did judge that their MP should assist, their request for help was realistic and could be handled with dispatch.

That left 50 constituents, who caused 99 per cent of my work. The lady who refused to accept that her rising damp was not the government's fault; the man who insisted that the Derbyshire Constabulary should fetch somebody from Tanzania; the woman who just kept getting drunk and into new debt every time she was bailed out of her existing debt.

My constituency surgeries were crowded, but always with the same people. And of course the buck they passed did not stop on my desk, or my secretary's (its next stop). On their behalf copious correspondence flowed to and from cabinet ministers, councillors, chief constables and directors of housing. And the buck did not stop with them, either. Memos and phone calls surged between their mahogany desks and the humbler counters of junior clerks, local housing officers, police constables and social workers... all in the cause of the Famous Fifty.

Richard Morrison asks if the Royal Opera House's ever-increasing deficit can be justified

A malignant growth at the Garden

Two weeks ago, Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, announced that he expected its deficit to rise from about £3 million now to more than £5 million next year. To some, this breathtaking acknowledgement of an ever-increasing debt seemed to have the tacit approval of the Arts Council, even of the Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce.

Only a month before, Mr Luce had proposed that the funding of nearly all performing companies should be devolved to regional arts boards, leaving a number of "flagship" national companies in the Arts Council's care. The Royal Opera House, which receives a £15 million annual public subsidy, will be one. So it was reasonable to believe that in budgeting for a £5 million deficit, it was confident that direct funding would bail it out. In short, Covent Garden expected special treatment.

Unless there is some sophisticated bluffing going on (which is not unknown in the British arts establishment), this interpretation

is confounded by a revelation made on Friday. Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has written to Lord Sainsbury, chairman of the Royal Opera House, expressing alarm at a deficit budget of this magnitude. Taxpayers, writes Mr Palumbo, will not invest in a company "determined... to spend its way into deficit". His line is consistent; already this season Kent Opera has folded because the Arts Council said its plans were unviable.

The Royal Opera House is in danger of pleasing no one. Next season its top ticket prices will exceed £100, and nowhere can a seat with a good view be described as cheap. Opera and ballet lovers without access to tickets bought by firms as executive perks are being hit hard. Even these prices, however, represent a public subsidy of nearly £30 a seat. Now the taxpayers — 90 per cent of whom have no intention of going inside an opera house — are told that even this subsidy is not enough to avoid a walloping deficit.

Jeremy Isaacs' initial response

to Palumbo's letter was unwise: "The entire cost of the [Royal Opera] season probably amounts to less than the Metropolitan Opera House in New York will spend on a single production." It is an unfortunate comparison, since only 2 per cent of the Met's revenue comes from public subsidy, while the equivalent figure for Covent Garden is 44 per cent.

Many problems have clouded Isaacs' directorship at Covent Garden. The Royal Ballet pay dispute earlier this year uncovered considerable antagonism between the opera and dance companies which share the building. The Royal Opera House development project has become embroiled in a thicket of planning applications, and no alternative home has yet been found for the three years from 1992 when Covent Garden is closed for building work.

Most irksome to Isaacs, however, must be the artistic comparisons being made between the Royal Opera's erratic production standards and those of English National Opera. These compar-

isons undermine Covent Garden's status as a "centre of excellence", and so jeopardize its case for £15 million of subsidy. English National Opera also has a substantial deficit, but artistically it is riding high. It has staged a series of headline-grabbing "concept" productions; it has cultivated a real ensemble company, rather than a succession of casts from the circuit of high-priced international stars, and its marketing has been aimed at young theatre-goers rather than affluent opera devotees. Consequently, the London Coliseum is perceived as offering genuinely popular opera.

To his credit, Isaacs recognizes how crucial accessibility is to the survival of the Royal Opera House. He has attempted to reform the rigid union agreements which make every broadcast from Covent Garden the subject of wearisome negotiation. "Big screen" relays of operas to crowds in the Covent Garden piazza have won popular approval.

But these encouraging moves are not enough. The Royal Opera

House is in such serious difficulties now that fundamental issues must be tackled urgently. Does Britain want a "superleague" opera house? If so, are we prepared to subsidize 70 per cent or more of the cost, as happens in Milan, Paris, Vienna and elsewhere? Or should Covent Garden follow Glyndebourne's policy, renounce subsidy, push seat prices higher still and hope that corporate patrons and Japanese tourists will pick up the bill?

And are the seasons too long? Covent Garden has around 450 performances each year, compared with 125 at La Scala. Yet Milan's opera-lovers probably outnumber London's by 10 to one.

The debate about these questions should not obscure one important principle. No company so reliant on public subsidy should be allowed to budget for a £5 million deficit. In effect, the Royal Opera House is allocating itself government funds that the government has not yet said it can have. That is not only high-handed, it is morally dubious.

Splendid opening for the merchants of disaster

Bernard Levin finds a link between the Channel Tunnel and the City's latest financial fiasco



It is getting harder and harder to exaggerate, and considering that I have built my illustrious career almost entirely on a foundation of hyperbole, I am understandably becoming nervous. I would be obliged, therefore, if everybody would kindly calm down, to enable me to go on multiplying by the number I first thought of.

This plea is directed in particular to the hapless shovellers trying to build a Channel Tunnel. When I last wrote about this monstrous superlative, I did some ridiculous extrapolations concerning the cost; the makers were claiming that they would now need any more money, and I sprinkled thoughts about with a liberal hand, trying to demonstrate not the actual sums which would repeatedly falsify that absurd claim, but some which, although obviously fantastic and impossible, would demonstrate that the claim would eventually be falsified.

I am more given than most to believing my own lunacy, but even I would have giggled if anyone had told me that my most extreme exaggerations would come literally true eight weeks after my joke. Yet so it has proved: Eurotunnel is at this moment asking for another two billion pounds to throw into their hole in the ground, and I would not be in the least surprised if the banks stamped up every penny of it ("...can't stop now...wasting our original investment...critics would laugh...Andre's a sound chap...").

...having lunch with Parkinson next month...light at the end of the tunnel...he-he-he...") and then forked out, around the end of July, another billion or two, or three, or possibly nineteen.

There is, however, a serious aspect to this pantomime. When the madness began, there was a government announcement — indeed, it was incorporated in the legislation — to the effect that there would be no public funds for the project; I gather that the Prime Minister himself insisted on that promise. After a time, however, when even the people in charge of the tunnel could hear the clock striking thirteen, a new note was sounded.

There was no way round the legislation, but there just might be a way round the legislation. The law forbids any public investment in the building of the tunnel; ah, but that does not preclude, or with enough impudence could be deemed not to preclude, the building of the new rail link, which

is absolutely essential if the plan to ruin the whole of Kent completely is to be finished on time.

When I heard of the plot, Tribulation Wholesome of Amsterdam sprang at once into my nasty mind. He is a character in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*, invited to take part in coining money. The upright cleric is scandalized beyond measure, until he is told that it is not *coining*, but *casting* that is under discussion, when he at once sees the distinction, and takes his whack with a clear conscience.

Not long after my philippic against the tunnel, I wrote about the extraordinary habit this country has of rewarding failure. There could be no better example than the use of taxpayers' money, in a deal designed to get round the law, to pay the bills of a company which proudly announces that its coffers are quite sufficiently full for the job in hand and a couple of months later is whining, in the traditional terms, "Mornin'.

Guv'nor, can you spare a few billion for a poor old bloke what's down on his luck?"

So far, the Government has not reached for our pockets; but it has not reached for a gun, either, and I regard as ominous the fact that although weeks have gone by since the rail-link option was floated, there has been no firm statement to the effect that the tunnellers will not get a penny from the state for any purpose whatever.

We shall see. But we shall also see what happens in the very jelly business of the firm of British and Commonwealth and the collapse of its subsidiary, Atlantic Computers, which collapse has in turn effectively ruined the parent company. In many ways, this fiasco is a re-run of the Ferranti merry-go-round, not least because of the astonishment engendered in both lots of bosses by the discovery that their enterprises were well and truly up the spout.

Listen to this: "Sir Peter Thompson, B&C's chairman,

said the company learnt of the size of Atlantic's problems only two weeks ago." Then listen to this:

Mr John Gunn, B&C's embattled chief executive, received the unequivocal support of his board, despite being the main architect of the strategy which cast down one of the market's highest flyers.

The details of Atlantic's very creative accounting are too complex to be rehearsed in detail here, though they can perhaps be summarized by saying that the dazzling wheeze they had hit upon consisted of buying items dear and, after a due interval, selling the same goods cheap. This daringly unorthodox move attracted much censure, even suspicion, from the more staid members of the business community, but the figures speak for themselves; when the shares were suspended, B&C faced the prospect of having to write off at least £600 million.

The question that needs answering, of course (though certainly will not be answered), is the same

as the one that remained unanswered in the Ferranti catastrophe: in what hammock were the bosses slumbering, peaceful smiles on their faces, when their company was going down the drain to a deafening chorus of "Gluh, gluh, gluh" from the shareholders?

Mr David McCormick, who had been chief executive of Atlantic, said, just as the roof was caving in, that "the full magnitude of Atlantic's problems was reported to certain board members of B&C more than a year ago, following a review of the potential liabilities which I instigated". That is almost exactly parallel to what happened at Ferranti: the elusive James Guein, head of its ICS subsidiary, had repeatedly been fingered as a crook, but nobody in charge took any notice. What has to happen in this country's business affairs for somebody to start taking notice before it is too late?

The answer to that one can be easily given, in very plain words. But I shall put it in more elaborately decorated ones. Listen to this:

Sir Peter Thompson told the Press that Mr Gunn had made his resignation available but B&C was "not in the sacrificial lamb game".

Savour the phrase, easily missed, in that statement: Mr Gunn had "made his resignation available". What an entrancing way of putting it! Not entrancing, you see, but making his resignation available: Tribulation Wholesome himself could not have put it better. But there is still something missing: the news that both Gunn and Thompson, when they have finished with the Receiver and buried the company (to say nothing of the employees), are to go on to fresh fields of endeavour, with half a million quid each to keep them from starving to death for the first month or two.

Never mind: the announcement will come in time, and so will the half million. But what, it seems, will not come, is the surprise, let alone censure, that should attach to a failure to notice that your company is going bust until two weeks before it does so. I wonder whether Sir Peter Thompson and Mr Gunn could be persuaded to lend a hand with the Channel Tunnel, though I am not entirely sure in what capacity. In-filling, perhaps?

The vilification of Vilnius

Russian propaganda appeared to have hijacked the airwaves on Saturday night when BBC 2 started flashing the words "Lithuanian scum! Beware the Lithuanians!" on our screens. Proving that racial tensions are nothing new in that part of the world, they were subtitles in the Covent Garden production of *Boris Godunov* at the Kirov Theatre, Leningrad. The controversial parallels were inescapable but musical director Valery Gergiev, in an interview during the interval, got a little carried away. He insisted throughout on referring to Leningrad by its pre-revolutionary name of St Petersburg and to the Kirov company by its imperial name, the Mariinsky Opera. Surely a case of taking *glasnost* a little too far? Even with the pace of change in the Soviet Union, few Russians have been heard to call for the return of the Tsars — yet.

Packing a punch

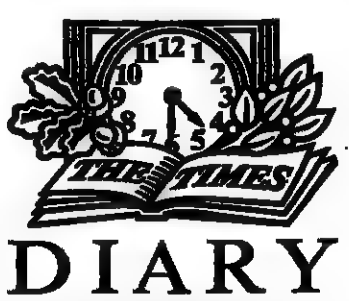
Pace-loving Quakers are annoyed to find that Popeye, that aggressive cartoon character, has changed his diet from spinach to Quaker Oats. The cloaked figure of Sir William Penn, founder of the Quaker movement in the United States, which has graced the cereal box with his presence for many years, has been removed, and Popeye has taken his place in a series of television commercials. But it is the revamped version of this theme song, in which the cartoon character now declares "I'm Popeye the

Quaker man", that has most upset American Quakers. A national flood of protest has ensued. Fortunately British Quakers take a more relaxed approach. David Firth, editor of their weekly newspaper, *The Friend*, restricts himself to observing mildly: "Popeye is always hitting people over the head, which is not really a Quakerly activity. He should give up porridge and stick to Olive Oyl."

A new novel by Joseph Wambaugh, *The Golden Orange*, offers some useful advice to *Salman Rushdie*. One of the inhabitants of Southern California's Orange County is quoted as saying: "That guy Rushdie oughta move to Orange County. Our Eyevians couldn't leave the discs long enough to kill anybody."

Oliver's request

In the interest of fairness, Oliver Letwin, Tory rival to Glenda Jackson in marginal Hampstead at the next election, is demanding his own television series. Before being selected, Labour's glittering candidate was offered the presenter's role in the BBC's six-part Sunday night series *Women Mean Business*, and the BBC has engaged Tories to continue with it. They recall that when Rob Richards was chosen as Conservative candidate in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election last year, BBC Wales suspended him as presenter of a nightly news programme — and did not give him the job back when he lost. Far from calling for Jackson to be banned, Letwin says he will be satisfied with a series of his own and, without specifying the subject, is writing to the BBC to



DIARY

demand it. Whether Tory MPs want Letwin on television six weeks running is an open question. His previous claim to fame was as a member of the Downing Street team which designed the poll tax.

Cats and dogs

Rebellions come thick and fast in the Tory party these days. Having seen off Norman Tebbit over Hong Kong, the Government may have a tougher fight on its hands tonight over dog registration. Leading the rebels



this time is Dame Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth Drake (two cats, no dogs). Animal welfare campaigners who have long pressed for proper registration of dogs received an unexpected boost when the Commons Information Office produced an imaginary Cats (Licensing) Bill to guide bemused visitors through the arcane legislative procedures of Westminster. The RSPCA seized upon the leaflet and has been sending copies to MPs urging them to enact it as it stands, with "cats" deleted and the word "dogs" inserted in its place.

Where did Norman Tebbit get his cricket-test idea? According to actor Warren Mitchell it was lifted straight from a Johnny Speight script for *In Sickness and in Health*, featuring television's racist caricature, Alf Garnett.

Gruff realities

The item in this column last week about Clive Ponting's book 1940: *Myth and Reality* has clearly touched a raw nerve. However, most of the flurry of letters on the subject object not to Ponting's attempt to debunk Churchill but to his error over the casting of Toytown, a mainstay of the BBC's *Children's Hour*. Ponting claims that Churchill's greatest radio broadcasts featured not his own voice, but that of the actor who played Toytown's Larry the Lamb. Scores of readers point out that the late Norman Shelley, played the Magician, Captain Higgins and Peter Brass. The voice of Larry the Lamb was that of Derek McCulloch, the pro-

gramme's Uncle Mac — something Ponting now accepts.

C.H. Rolph, the writer and broadcaster, says that Shelley, who was best man at his wedding, recorded "we shall fight on the beaches" for a propaganda film, and that it was repeated on the radio so many times that no one was aware of the deception. Another correspondent insists that it was Churchill who made the broadcast, and that when the microphone was switched off he added "And we shall hit him on the head with beer-bottles, which is all we've really got."

Labour markets

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI and presenter of the BBC 2 *Troublesooter* series, is putting his formidable entrepreneurial skills to work for the increasingly market-conscious Labour Party. Sir John, on behalf of Kramer Associates, the management consultancy, has invited businessmen to pay £1,610 per ticket for a "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" session at a Park Lane hotel next month. The venture has upset Tory MPs, who have tabled a Commons motion predicting that the "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" offer is overpriced and will be undersubscribed. They suggest that Sir John should devote one *Troublesooter* programme to investigating Labour's "inexperienced management, union-dominated workforce, and outdated product lines". They do not request that he apply his skills to their own troubled outfit, no doubt apprehensive that he might begin by suggesting they sack the managing director.



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MAKING SENSE OF UNION

The Dublin summit has brought some long overdue realism to the debate about "political union" between the 12 member states of the European Community. The credit for this realism must go to Mrs Thatcher. Given the barrage of abuse to which she was subjected before the summit, she can be seen to have played a most difficult hand with skill. Gone, thank goodness, are the histrionics of 10 years ago; gone too the display of petulant hostility to any idea of change in the Community's constitutional structure.

On her insistence, foreign ministers are to produce before the next summit in June a detailed analysis of the possible meanings of political union. They must set out its institutional and legal implications, and provide a route-map with the destinations clearly marked. The importance of this preparation is that the next summit will almost certainly agree to an inter-governmental conference on the subject. It will not now proceed in a vacuum. Five other heads of government supported Mrs Thatcher.

In addition, Mrs Thatcher achieved a preliminary definition of political union which emphasized the need to establish the Community's "democratic legitimacy", improve the effectiveness of its institutions, and provide for united and coherent external policies. That is a good starting point for negotiations, because it could apply equally to the "deepening" of the Community sought (for different reasons) by Germany and France, and to Mrs Thatcher's preferred vision of a looser federation of states.

If an obsession with the meaning of diplomatic terms is considered an irritating British habit, so be it. After last week's advocacy of political union by its chief proponents, France and the Federal Republic, neither could come up with a definition that even remotely made sense. This in itself might do for an occasional after-dinner speech, were it not for the casual lack of sensitivity for political union shown by those two leaders last week. As Mrs Thatcher pointed out, what credence should attach to Franco-German rhetoric about pooled sovereignty when they rush off a bilateral foreign policy initiative on Lithuania? And who are the French and Germans to expect established European democracies to relinquish national rights which the countries of Eastern Europe are exuberantly enjoying?

If France and Germany will not say what

they mean, Britain is right to help them out. Mrs Thatcher at least attempted to describe what political union was *not*, to ring-fence the areas of sovereignty she judges indispensable if the distinctive identities of the Community's member nations are to be preserved. Her list of things better left alone included each country's head of state and national legislature, and its electoral and legal systems. There must, she insisted, be no weakening, in favour of "government by a technocratic elite", of the powers of the Council of Ministers, and no dilution of the West's Nato-based defence arrangements.

This may amount to a restatement, in silkier tones, of much of Mrs Thatcher's famous Bruges speech of September 1988. What was refreshingly novel was that, for once, Mrs Thatcher stated her reservations without attracting overt disavowals from her peers. The assent she garnered has much to do with her more subdued tone of voice. It also reflects the fact that her list of exclusions was an astute political summary of ordinary people's scepticism — not just in Britain — towards the accumulation of power in Brussels and (if Germany has its way) in the European Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher's approach would allow for little more than closer policy coordination between governments and more efficient administration. This would require, as she hopes, minimal revision to the Treaty of Rome. It is incompatible with full-scale political integration but can, and this is important, be reconciled with "strengthening the political dimension of the Community". This is one way of describing a route which M Delors himself last week preferred to the "unfortunate" resonances of "political union". The British approach opposes the French fixation with "locking Germany into the Community". It offers a more open debate about the kind of room in which Germany would feel so comfortable that a lock would be superfluous. It also reflects Mrs Thatcher's wider concern with a Europe predating the Treaty of Rome, a cultural space whose boundaries embrace not only Budapest and Moscow, but stretch out as far as the United States.

The harmony of the Dublin summit may not hold as more detailed negotiations proceed towards June. But the Prime Minister has castled adroitly to avoid check.

SILENCE IN COURT

In October 1988 Lord Denning and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom King, made some comments on an accused person's right to silence, while a jury in Winchester happened to be trying three Irish persons on terrorist charges. All three had exercised their right to remain silent in court. By an odd coincidence, with no relevance except to the amount of publicity his words received, Mr King was himself the target of the conspiracy to murder with which the three were charged.

The gist of Mr King's and Lord Denning's remarks was that the guilty had more reason to remain silent than the innocent, and that a prosecuting counsel ought to be entitled, contrary to practice hitherto, to draw this suggestion to the attention of the court. They made no reference to the Winchester case. Mr King was engaged in explaining an Order he had tabled in the House of Commons relating to a restriction on the right of silence in Northern Ireland (which has since come into force). Lord Denning, commenting on this on television, repeated his long-held view that something similar should be done in England.

The Court of Appeal last week concluded that the Winchester jury, once its members had been made aware of these opinions, might have been unfairly influenced. A new trial should therefore have been ordered. The defendants have been released.

Lord Denning accepted in *The Times* today that it is *prima facie* a contempt of court to say anything which might prejudice a jury in the course of a trial. But in this case, he indignantly denies the charge and protests at being found guilty in his absence and without right of defence. For a former judge to be complaining of his vulnerability to contempt of court will be

ironic to many in the press. But he is correct. He and Mr King had a right to say what they said when they said it; newspapers and television had a right to report them saying it; and the jury was capable of disregarding such comments, particularly when warned to do so by the trial judge.

The issue of the right to silence has been publicly discussed at length at least since 1972. Nobody could suppose that the idea that silence may suggest guilt was so novel that no member of the jury would ever have thought of it, had he not heard of the comments of Lord Denning and Mr King. The Court of Appeal has shown, once again, how ridiculous is the mythology which surrounds contempt of court.

That said, the Court of Appeal might have had better reasons to be worried about the safety of these convictions. The jury at Winchester was out for 15 hours, and at one point reported to the judge it was virtually hung. The eventual verdict was reached by a vote of 10 to two.

The jury's agonized decision to convict appeared to depend upon an even more questionable theory than an inference of guilt drawn from their silence, namely that they were part of an IRA intelligence gathering operation. The police admitted in court there was no evidence for this. It was an inference based largely on the fact that they were from Ireland, and that they had collected what could have been a terrorist hit-list.

These doubts must surely have passed through the original jury's mind. To be acting suspiciously and to be Irish is not sufficient proof of involvement in an IRA conspiracy. The Court of Appeal should have questioned that instead.

SAVE SPITALFIELDS

A decision last week by a neighbourhood committee in Bethnal Green in East London has thrown £500m of property up in the air, to land only after Thursday's local elections. The move of the old Spitalfields market this year to Stratford East vacates 12 acres of probably the most enticing land in Western Europe.

A network of streets, with many buildings dating from the early 18th-century, spreads east from the City of London boundary at Bishopsgate. North and east of it lies residential London; huge office blocks are rising to the west in Broadgate and south in Wapping; Spitalfields is in their shadow, as vulnerable as was Covent Garden in West London in the 1970s. Covent Garden was saved from overdevelopment only after mass public protest forced the 1970 Conservative Government to intervene. The result is today one of the most attractive and profitable conservation areas in any capital city. Can Spitalfields be saved in the same way?

The proposal which went forward for local planning approval last week offers no scope for optimism. It involves the construction of 1m square feet of commercial space in a massive linked gallery. To ease this monster down the throats of the Tower Hamlets council, a consortium of property and construction interests have resorted to the gambit of offering what amounts to a political bribe, 118 low-cost homes elsewhere on the site, the sort of planning gain notorious in the 1960s, enabling developers to disregard zoning restrictions with developments such as Centre Point and Stag Place, Victoria.

The City Corporation wants to make as much as possible out of the old market site: roughly £120m, of which half will go on paying

for the market's relocation. The rest is public-sector profit. Earlier, more conservationist, schemes for Spitalfields have all foundered on this profit figure. One envisaged the neighbourhood restored as a classical town square, a refreshing retreat from the overpowering City on its borders. Another retained much of this low-rise atmosphere and was widely acclaimed, but was considered insufficiently profitable.

The present architects are the Americans, Swanke, Hayden, Connell, creators of New York's Trump Tower. They responded to a more ruthless brief with a great brick block on the market site, effectively pushing the City boundary 100 yards to the east.

This is the last corner of central London to face renewal. Given the exciting recent advances in planning and architecture in British cities, it would be a tragedy if the old ways were to triumph here. The case for retaining low-rise shops, offices and private houses in this area is clear. There is no private landowner to complain of lost revenue. There are two public authorities, the City Corporation and Tower Hamlets council, in a position to ordain what should occur. Both should be prized off their obsession with maximum public housing or maximum rental profit.

The likelihood is that the local council will go Labour this week. The present scheme may be rejected, and thankfully go to public inquiry. If so, the decision will rest with the Environment Secretary, Mr Chris Patten. He knows what he should do with such destructive plans. London can renew itself and prosper without losing its character. If Covent Garden could be saved, so can Spitalfields.

In defence of freedom of speech

From Lord Denning

Sir, In your issue of Saturday, April 28, you headlined one of your reports "Three convictions quashed on 'right to silence'". You set out the reasons given by the judges of the Court of Appeal. These were that Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, and I had made statements on television which were so prejudicial to the three accused that a fair trial was impossible before the jury that was trying them. That unfairness "could not be overcome by any direction to the jury and that the only way in which justice could be done and be obviously seen to be done was by discharging the jury and ordering a retrial".

That pronouncement charges Mr King and me — and the television people — with a serious contempt of court. We had offended against sections 1 and 2 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. We had been guilty of conduct which interfered with the course of justice regardless of intent to do so.

The judges of the Court of Appeal did not communicate with me before making this serious charge against me. They condemned me unheard. I had been given an opportunity, I would have had a good defence to the charge.

"The right to silence" had been brought under public scrutiny on October 20, 1988, by a written answer by the Home Secretary to Parliament. It was a matter of general public interest on which all of us were entitled to comment. My comment on television was the same as those which I had made publicly many times before and were based on the report of

the Criminal Law Revision Committee in 1972, who proposed that the so-called right to silence enjoyed by suspects should be greatly restricted.

I knew as most people knew that three people were being tried at Winchester for conspiring to murder Mr King but I knew nothing of the course of the trial. I had read nothing of it and had no idea that it involved the right to silence. If I had been charged I should have pleaded the defence of freedom of speech given by Section 5 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. A publication made as or as part of a discussion in good faith of public affairs or other matters of general public interest is not to be treated as a contempt of court under this strict liability rule if the risk of impediment or prejudice to particular legal proceedings is merely incidental to the discussion.

That section was inserted into the statute on the recommendation of the Contempt of Court Committee supported by speeches of distinguished law lords.

Yet the judges of the Court of Appeal have condemned me without hearing my defence. They did it under the cloak of an absolute privilege. In the face of it, all I can do is to write to you. My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal. Yours etc, DENNING, The Lawn, Whitechurch, Hampshire, April 29.

EC borders and 1992

From Mr Alan Butt Philip

Sir, The lack of interest in helping Britain avert a mass exodus from Hong Kong on the part of other EC governments should not cause you any surprise (leading article, April 19). Such an attitude follows exactly the same logic as the British Government's own insistence that immigration policy is a national government prerogative and outside the European Community's competence.

Why then should other EC governments help Britain out over Hong Kong, any more than Britain should help Portugal out over the situation in neighbouring Macau?

Nor are you correct in stating that after 1992 any migrant into an EC member State is by definition a migrant into the Community as a whole. The UK Government has never accepted that free movement of persons within the EC should apply to non-EC nationals, however legitimately resident in another EC member State. That is one reason why the British Gov-

ernment is so reluctant to see an end to border controls within the Community.

Yet it is extremely difficult to see how a frontier-free Europe can be delivered after 1992 unless freedom of movement within the EC is offered to EC and non-EC nationals alike. It is also abundantly clear that EC states will have to co-ordinate their immigration policies as the barriers in Europe come down, since the decisions of any one government in this policy area will increasingly impact upon many others.

Such a sensible outcome is only likely to be achieved when national governments have learned the hard way just how limited is their own capacity to take effective action on immigration matters without sharing their supposed sovereignty with their neighbours. Yours sincerely, ALAN BUTT PHILIP, University of Bath, Centre for European Industrial Studies, Claverton Down, Bath, Avon, April 19.

Business rate

From Dr Gerard Bulger

Sir, In your leader of April 25 you state that the uniform business rate has resulted in billions of pounds being transferred from southern to northern businesses. It would have been more correct to state that this transfer was from southern to northern landlords.

A business, in determining where to place itself, will take into account the sum of rent (or mortgage interest) and rates in a given area. The sum that the business will bear will be determined by market forces. If a council lowered its rates, the effect would be to allow landlords to raise rents to match that sum, as far as the market would bear. Similarly raising rates suppresses local rents.

Businesses are driven out of inner cities by factors other than the rates. These include poor educational facilities for its employees' children, poor transport, and planning restrictions. You suggest that local business should have its rates set again locally. In that case business should have local representation to go with their taxation. Yours sincerely, GERARD BULGER, 58 Newbold Road, Hackney, ES, April 26.

Ecologically minded

From Mr J. T. Chambers

Sir, The answer to Dr Flood's problem (April 25) is simple. If he were to stop worrying about other people's destruction of the rain forests and concentrate instead on avoiding the destruction of his own lungs and the pollution of our rivers, he could be relieved of his dilemma of whether to choose cigars in packets or cigars in tins.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CHAMBERS, 36 Montfort College, Botley Road, Romsey, Hampshire, April 25.

From Mr P. G. R. Willis

Sir, Dr Flood need not regard his small cigar tins as expendable. I find them invaluable for storing nails, screws, and similar small items.

They then store neatly in a biscuit tin, and perhaps Dr Flood could find some other things to store in this tin stored in tins. Yours faithfully, P. G. R. WILLIS, 54 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, April 25.

Buildings at risk

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, While cathedrals were the first to suffer from the kindness that kills (article, April 18) in the 1960s and 1970s, resulting in more than one case in the irrevocable loss of historic fabric, they were also among the first to realise the dangers of too much money.

The buildings at risk today are not the stars in England's architectural firmament but the humbler satellites, the less visible (and often still unexplored) barns, mills, terrace houses and pubs which together make up the major part of the historic fabric of our towns and countryside.

Why are these gems being ruined? The answer is simple: there are, unlike in cathedrals, rarely powerful personalities at the doors.

Conservation in England in the 1990s must be indivisible and include all buildings, great and small.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW ANDERSON (Surveyor to the fabric, St Albans Cathedral), 1 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk, April 20.

Obstructive pupils

From Mr Aidan White

Sir, Mr Chapman (April 21) has put his finger on what is the major impediment to job satisfaction in State schools — the obstructive pupil. It is one which the educational establishment shows a strange reluctance to acknowledge, either through lack of personal experience or an extravagantly idealised view of juvenile character.

It is a strange situation in which the teacher has a legal obligation to bestow his services on a minority resolutely determined to reject them, meanwhile neglecting the willing majority. Any sanctions he may have had in the past have been whittled away. He is dependent on personality and bluff.

A solution adopted by some is the role of policeman, which may contain the nuisances but intimidates the sensitive. Others, determined to take a more humane approach, suffer the inevitable stress.

One such colleague (an excellent teacher on the testimony of former pupils) once said to me: "You are in a situation which you cannot dominate and you cannot change". Before he could retire he had died of a stroke. Yours faithfully, AIDAN WHITE, 17 Braunstone Avenue, Leicester, April 23.

Balancing Opera House books

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Last week, when the Royal Opera House announced the programme for opera next season (report, April 19), we reported that, following a deficit in the last financial year of over £3 million, the current year was likely to produce a further shortfall of £2 million.

In view of the publicity given to this, I would like to emphasise that the current year's budget was only arrived at after substantial economies had been found, and was only authorised by the board because we believed that any further economies would result in either compromising the artistic standards to which we aspire, or greater losses if fewer performances were to be given.

Our objective is to get as near as possible to balancing our books, though maintaining our artistic standards and ensuring an exciting repertoire, which will fill the house (as it has in the past year), despite the very high prices we must charge for the best seats in the house.

The consequences of the financial squeeze we have experienced, as Arts Council funding has been reduced by 15 per cent in real terms between 1984 and 1989, have been well known to Govern-

ment and to the Arts Council for over a year. We appreciated the increase in grant for the current year; nevertheless, if taken with the very small grant given last year, we have over last year and this suffered around a 3 per cent reduction in subsidy, allowing for inflation.

We fully recognise our responsibility to help ourselves as much as we can, and to work to reduce this deficit. We will continue to look for more income from the box office and from private sponsorship, both of which have risen considerably, though the latter, in a changed economic climate, less rapidly than we had hoped.

However, it should be said that on a performance basis our subsidy is very much lower than any other major European opera house, and that if successive Arts Council grants had followed the recommendation made in the Priestley report (a Cabinet office efficiency review in 1983) this year's budget would not show a deficit.

Yours faithfully, SAINSBURY, Chairman, Royal Opera House, As from: Stamford House, Stamford Street, SE1, April 27.

NHS reforms

From Mr Nigel H. Harris

Sir, Your report (April 19) that the Royal Opera House is budgeting for a £2 million deficit in the current year, it is carrying over a deficit of £3.3 million from the last financial year and will let it grow to nearly £5.5 million.

These arrangements present a stark contrast with the NHS. Regular reports have indicated the widespread, significant underfunding of our hospitals, amounting to many millions of pounds. Unlike the Royal Opera House, health authorities have no choice but to drastically reduce services to patients to stay within their budget. Mr Clarke undoubtedly would say that Jeremy Isaacs and his colleagues have mismanaged the affairs of the Opera House.

There is something seriously wrong with our priorities that allows continual deterioration in the service to patients but allows them — health permitting — to visit the opera. Yours faithfully, NIGEL H. HARRIS (Consultant orthopaedic surgeon), 72 Harley Street, W1, April 20.

Hardback novels

From Dr Crawford Knox

Sir, David Holbrook has expressed concern (April 18) about the failure of libraries to buy hardback fiction and notes the deleterious effect on reading of television.

In a recent review in *The Times Literary Supplement* (March 16-22) of David Vincent's new book, *Literary and Popular Culture: England 1750-1914*, Paul Thompson noted that by the 1840s there were at least some books in three-quarters of labourers' homes; and that in the late 19th century the British working class read more newspapers and books and sent more postcards than any in the world.

It is now 120 years since the Education Act of 1870 provided for compulsory education in this country. Are there any modern figures which might enable us to judge the growth of literacy in England since before and after the introduction of compulsory education?

Yours faithfully, CRAWFORD KNOX, Burrow Wood, East Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon.

PR in Ireland

From Mr Eric Syddique

Sir, It is not Mr Thorpe (April 17) who is being naive. Des Keenan (April 23) seems to be making the assumption that the absence of any Protestant party in the Irish Republic means that its Protestant minority is not represented. But the beauty of PR/STV (proportional representation/single transferable vote) is that no such party is needed. The minority has always got fair representation, simply by giving its preference to Protestant or Catholic candidates within any party.

It was a leading Protestant, Canon Luce, who wrote in praise of PR as "a healing and unifying force". Yours faithfully, ERIC SYDDIQUE (Research and Information Officer), Electoral Reform Society, 6 Chancel Street, Blackfriars, SE1.

War horses

From Mr P. F. R. Corson

Sir, "The Earl" lies buried in the field outside our gate. The stone over his grave records

Here lies "The Earl". He was charger to R. T. Godman in the 5th Dragoon Guards for 19 years. Served through the Russian War in Turkey and the Crimea 1854-6. Was engaged in battles of Balaklava, Inkerman, Tchernaya & siege of Sebastopol. Was shot in consequence of an accident on 26th December 1868 when still in full vigour.

What a partnership that must have been, and what a sad parting. Yours etc, P. F. R. CORSON, Park Hatch, Loxhill, Godalming, Surrey, April 21.

Change in S Africa

From Mr W. J. Tomlinson

Sir, There is a fundamental flaw in Conor Cruise O'Brien's suggestion (article, April 22) that South Africa's President de Klerk might "go for broke, and accept non-racial elections on a common roll".

That would be unconstitutional, and Dr Treurnicht would certainly challenge it in the Supreme Court. The court would equally certainly uphold the challenge.

The only legal way Mr de Klerk could follow Dr O'Brien's suggestion would be to amend the Constitution, and this in turn would require a referendum of the white electorate — which would bring him back to square one.

Yours faithfully, BILL TOMLINSON, 13 Hawthorne Close, Woking, Surrey.

Fragrant journey

From Mrs H. Crowe

Sir, Your report (April 20, later editions) on the use of artificial fragrances to "sweeten the carriage atmosphere" on an east London Underground line perturbs me. Sensitized once and for all to many perfumes, a few years ago, when my house was sprayed with a particular perfumed aerosol, I have swiftly to vacate any taxi cab carrying one of those perfumed odour-eaters or leave the room if I find myself sharing it with one or other perfume or aftershave, to avoid a severe attack of vomiting.

Shall I soon have to risk leaping from a train between Shoreditch and New Cross, or other route made fragrant to some, but poisonous to me? If the carriages smell, there is a reason and the reason should be cleaned up, not covered up.

Yours faithfully, EVA CROWE, 1 Lodge Cottages, Axford, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Trade figures

From Mr Tim Wright

Sir, I have just been analysing my monthly shopping statistics and have found that I have again spent considerably more than I had previously forecast. Fortunately this can be explained by erratic items, such as restocking the drinks cabinet and spring-cleaning materials.

I am confident that next month there will be no more erratic items. Instead I shall call next month's blip a one-off, due to the unusually good weather. What excuse shall I use for June? Yours faithfully, TIM WRIGHT, 3 Idsworth House, Horndean, Hampshire, April 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (01)782 5046.

Leaders scrutinized

Robert Gore-Langton looks at the treatment of ancient politics in two of the RSC's current productions

The only two Shakespeare plays with truly pessimistic endings are *Coriolanus* and *Troilus and Cressida*. *Troilus* has had no history of performance until this century. *Coriolanus*, which has fared better on stage because of its sensational leading role, is probably still the least known of the big tragedies. In academic circles, too, both plays have also been resisted. A pet theory among theatre practitioners is that the sport-hating, shy school-swots grow up to become professional academics who habitually misunderstand or avoid plays that deal with dynamic leadership.

Terry Hands, who subscribed to this theory when he could find "nothing rational" written about *Henry V*, has directed both plays twice during his time at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and now brings to the Barbican his production of *Coriolanus*—the Roman dictator, hated by the Tribunes, brought down by his mother, Sam Mendes, a little shorter in the tooth, is making his debut with the RSC at Stratford's Swan theatre. His *Troilus*, which opened last week to excellent reviews, is only his second-ever Shakespeare. At 24 he is, coincidentally, the same age as Sir Peter Hall when he founded the company. *Troilus* and *Cressida*, a highbrow masterpiece written for an elite audience at the Inns of Court, casts a cynical eye on the Trojan war and turns the mythical cast of Homer's *Iliad* into a collection of playboys, slobes and tarts.

In different conversations, both directors discussed Shakespeare's approach to the worlds of Greeks, Trojans and Romans. The last RSC *Troilus* was given a Crimean setting. For Sam Mendes, there could be no visual updating of Troy to Beirut or Ulster, no Berlin Walls or Lithuanians. "If anything, we have located it racially. What became clear during rehearsals was the deep loathing of the Greeks for the Trojans. In Classical myth, the Trojans, ancestors of the British, were pale skinned as opposed to the sun-burnt Greeks. The Trojans are thus the English; those in the Greek Armada, the Spanish. The Greeks have, I think, this foreign feel."

The play, which Mendes describes as "an orchestration of dissonances", gives a dizzy array of perspectives on the themes of time, politics and love and war. "One of the things the play asks is what it means to be a warrior. That now needs reexamining. The *Iliad* is all about people who fight. Are warriors meaningless to a contemporary audience because by instinct we (liberal theatre types) frown upon them? The play

both derides and celebrates the warrior figure. We mustn't cut out that celebration aspect, even if it is not right, as the plays prove in the end. But that is a journey that the play must take, not me as its director."

The Homeric warriors may be thoroughly debunked, but the play is not without glamour. There is a sexual strain beneath the political decision-making, as Mendes is keen to reveal. "Doing the play I am constantly reminded of a Hitchcock phrase: shoot your murders like love scenes and your love scenes like murders. The meeting between Achilles and Hector is a love scene. Pure theatre for those watching, but underneath deeply sensual and dangerous. Similarly, the love scene between Diomed and Cressida is like a battle: retreats, attacks and advances. The secret is to play each scene for its full value."

Back at the Barbican, Terry Hands argues that "*Troilus* and *Coriolanus* are the greatest political plays that Shakespeare wrote. *Julius Caesar* is more about what it is to be a political figure. *Coriolanus* is about the evolution of the state—it's for everyone. It's always popular with audiences, since it offers them the quintessential dilemma—the need for strong, protective leadership and the need for everyone to have a say. You can't, in the end, run anything by committees."

"Shakespeare saw leadership as necessary and therefore worthy of a study in itself. Since the last war most English people have seen it as something to avoid. But in the last 20 years Mrs Thatcher has resurrected a concept of leadership. The swing is now maybe going the other way."

"*Coriolanus* is a tragic hero in the wrong time. He can't retire—he must be incorporated into the system. We made Wellington a prime minister; the worst ever. What about Churchill? Tragically, and I say this with sadness, people eventually wanted him to die so that we could honour him and get on. The same is true with *Coriolanus*; they make him prime minister and it doesn't work."

One link between *Troilus* and *Coriolanus* is that they are the only plays with unbelievably bleak endings. "Only these two plays end with a sense of terrible waste, of no future," says Hands. "There is no Malcolm or Fortinbras to follow, just dead bodies and hopelessness. *Coriolanus*'s son, at the end, is clearly going to grow up to be just like his father. So perhaps that is what politics is: cycle after cycle of democratic rule followed by individual leadership. The pattern may be inevitable. We need to stage these great political metaphors from time to time. But of course *Coriolanus*, like *Troilus*, ultimately asks 'what is love?'. In the end, it is a profoundly human story that is being told."

● *Troilus* and *Cressida* is currently playing at the Swan in Stratford. *Coriolanus* opens at the Barbican on Wednesday.

John Percival reviews the Royal Ballet's quadruple-bill, and a new cast for *Giselle*

Star quality shines bright

WHAT makes a guest star special? Why is it that Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Hilaire harvested more cheers for their dancing in Jerome Robbins' showpiece, *Other Dances*, at Covent Garden on Saturday than the Royal Ballet's own dancers in modern works by the three house choreographers? Why the ovation for two Kirov guests, Altyнай Asylmuratova and Konstantin Zaklinsky, in *Giselle* two nights earlier?

It is not just publicity or snobbery. The Russians really did breathe life into the old classic. Every movement was heartfelt. They are marvellously matched, too—his big, blond directness setting off her small, dark eroticism. He makes Albrecht seem a nice guy (no cheating with the flower petals that are counted to prove his love) and she is a *Giselle* unusually fond of her mother.

Their acting in the Leningrad manner, big in emblematic gestures rather than realistic mime, comes over convincingly. The French couple in Robbins' deceptively casual-looking dances to Chopin mazurkas and a waltz get every tiny detail exact and clear. A sly smile, a speculative glance, even a pretended mistake in one of his solos, or the way the admirable pianist, Antony Twiner, turns to look after one of her exits: all are carefully placed. This is high art made to look artless; every detail is exactly projected for maximum impact.

It is significant that the best received of the British ballets in this programme was *Gloria*, the one where the choreographer, Kenneth MacMillan, had the clearest purpose and dictated exactly the dramatic impetus as well as the shape of his dances. Set to Foulenc's score, with Linda Kitchen, soprano, and the Covent Garden Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Richard Bernas, this aims to evoke a sense of waste by

means not unlike Britten's *War Requiem*: showing the nastiness of the 1914-18 conflict against a contrasting religious solemnity. The designs by MacMillan's discovery Andy Klunder (a flayed, corrupted effect in all the costumes, trenches or graves, behind a mysteriously brooding framework) contribute strongly to the effect—although the men's tin hats have begun curling at the brims and some are worn at an inappropriately rakish angle.

Gloria was mostly very well danced, with Maria Almeida as its remote ghostly heroine and Wendy Ellis in her best role, as the contrasted vivacious girl—a flapper before her time—brilliantly matched by Ashley Page, Bruce Sansom and Adam Cooper in dances full of quick, wispily leaps and throws.

There was good dancing also from two casts (matinee and evening) in the other two ballets, but to nothing like the same effect. David Bintley's *Galaxies* and Page's *Pursuit* are both phobias works for eight women and four men. Both suffer from their designs: Jan Blake's for Bintley is too wishy-washy and blue-grey subdued, Jack Smith's for Page is colourful, but overwhelming.

Bintley's choice of music is Mozart. His dances are fluent, inventive, but too smooth, too much in good taste: one wants to be startled more. Page has a highly regarded, but not easily penetrable, modern score by Colin Matthews and his dances follow rather than illuminate it. He throws in balletic pomp, mechanical doll effects, some *commedia* dalliance, for a sometimes exhilarating but confusing mix.

These works are attractive, competent, interesting, and contain many potentially exciting performances, but do not present the dancers to full effect.



MacMillan's *Gloria*: contrasting conflict and religious solemnity

Tragedy also comes to the working classes

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston
Maria Magdalena
Gate

UNTIL the middle of the last century, tragic heroes were drawn exclusively from the upper classes. Common people might be allowed an appearance, but only if they brought a basket of asps along with them, or bad news from another part of the palace.

Two German playwrights were the first to challenge the notion that tragic events came only to those of gentle birth. Büchner's *Woyzeck*, though written in the 1830s, remained unknown until the end of the century, so that Friedrich Hebbel's *Maria Magdalena*, written and produced 10

years later, became the first performed play in which griefs are experienced by a commoner.

The victim is Klara, daughter of a joiner in a small German town. In a cast that includes a merchant and two bailiffs, the villain is a cashier who persuades Klara to give him the final proof of her love, and the hero a young lawyer, the childhood sweetheart whom she never expected to meet again.

The joiner's parlour is a long way from a throne-room, but Death's blade sweeps through both. When Klara's brother is arrested on suspicion of stealing jewels, the mother drops down dead on the spot. Fearful of her father's wrath, Klara dare not tell him she is pregnant, and while lawyer and cashier shoot it out, she throws herself down a well.

This production, apparently the first in English, is by Theatre

Manoeuvres, a relaunch of plc Theatre Company, which staged a spare, imaginatively updated *Don Carlos* two years ago. Their Hebbel is also transposed to a time and place that seem at first to be excessively far from the original: instead of provincial Germany, a town in America's Mid-West some time in the 1950s.

It is a place where the fear of hellfire is still powerful, and abortion is as unthinkable to the pious-tailed Klara as to her 1844 predecessor. But though the strength and acuteness is retained in her scenes with the young men and with the sickly mother (excellently played by Marie Stillin), the ascent into tragedy keeps slipping back into bathos.

Laura Eddy's anxious urchin face and clenched hands are altogether persuasive early on, but when the character dawdles under

a roof, hoping to be killed by a falling slate—and tells us so in a soliloquy—it is hard to believe that these are likely tricks of a member of the Debbie Reynolds generation.

Until the last scene defeats everyone, Malcolm Edwards draws fine, realistic performances from the women, from Robert Bowman (sharp, finger-flicking rotter), and from Alexis Denisof as the neat, considerate, fresh-cheeked chap Klara should have married. Robert Jezek brings too little weight to the religious father.

It would be hard to imagine a heroine further from today's feminist ideal, and yet, despite or because of that, the play is continually fascinating. It desperately needs an interval, however, and since the two acts are each 55 minutes long, I cannot imagine why we are not given one.

Russian autumn

CONCERTS
Hilary Finch
Nicolai Gedda
Wigmore Hall

THIS has been the spring of the autumnal singer. With concerts by Fischer-Dieskau, Victoria de los Angeles, Mirella Freni and Nicolai Gedda within days of each other, the air has been thick with an aura of warm, well-wishing idolatry.

Would Gedda, at 65, deliver the goods? At the start of his Wigmore recital, there was

some doubt: Duparc seemed an unnecessarily masochistic choice, and a tentative "L'invitation au voyage" promised little for the journey ahead. Both "Phidyle" and "Chanson Triste" sounded short of oxygen, but the fusion of nervous tension and a skilful legato in half-voice created its own telling frisson for "Extase".

The dominant sensation of the recital was one of consummate artistry and cunning stage-management. Nowhere was this more true than in Gedda's cunningly chosen selection of Wolf's "Mörke" songs: each a refuge of character and caricature in which the voice could unashamedly play a part.

The hangover song ("Zur Warnung") came over as an angular, almost post-Wolfian

example of *sprechstimme*, the parsonic account of the wedding capitalized on the thoroughly Wolfian dialogue between Geoffrey Parsons' wry harmonic subtlety and Gedda's own manipulation of each mordant phrase.

Mother, or (more appropriately for Gedda) Father Russia dominated the second half. By now, all nervousness had been smoothed into a

gliding line for the yearning of "Tell me, star", sharpened into vintage knife-edge Gedda for "King Saul", and moulded into a nicely whining complacency for the satirical song about the Classicist. It remained only for the exuberant "Spring waters" of Rachmaninov to flow into a series of encores, which were begun by two disarmingly simple Russian folk songs.

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Cellists take bow

David Fallows
Jacqueline Du Pré
Memorial Concert
RNCM, Manchester

BEETHOVEN'S five sonatas for cello and piano make a long evening. If you round it off by adding his three variations sets, it becomes something of a binge. But there can be few more satisfying ways to explore the range of Beethoven's style, from the two Opus 5 sonatas, perhaps the strangest and most ambitious of his early works, via the consummate middle-period masterpiece, Opus 69 in A major, through to the two miracles of compression in Opus 102, the first of his final-period works.

It was also a fine way to acknowledge several overseas cellists who have rarely been heard in England. They were here for the Second International Cello Festival organized by the inexhaustible Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music. Each took one of the works in a concert supporting the Jacqueline Du Pré Memorial Fund.

Obviously there is a danger that an enterprise like this will seem rather like those Young Musician contests that are televised from the same hall—though if there were to be a winner it would probably be

the pianist Ian Brown, whose immaculately judged playing did so much for Wolfgang Boettcher in the *Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen* variations, Op 56, and for the Swedish cellist Frans Helmerson in the Sonata Op 5 no 2.

The other main danger is that the performances could be so different as to distract attention from the music. That was avoided by choosing cellists of a remarkably similar kind: there was no original stringing or use of early pianos here. The only major differences were in Thomas Demenga's beautifully understated reading of the early variations on *See the Conquering Hero Comes*, and particularly in Zara Nelsova's passionately idiosyncratic reading of the Opus 69 sonata.

This was perhaps a performance that was easy to dislike from the broad and loud playing of the opening piano phrase, to the perpetual heavy vibrato. At the same time, however, it was vital and irresistible: every detail will remain in the memory long after others are forgotten. It remains to record that Antonio Meneses, with Anthony Goldstone, opened with a performance of the first sonata that underlined its extraordinary originality; and that the Lithuanian cellist David Geringas, with Julian Jacobson, was a little insensitive in the first Opus 102 sonata. This piece of international co-operation was crowned by Ralph Kirshbaum, with the imaginative partnership of Peter Frank in the *Bei Männern* variations and Opus 102 no 2.

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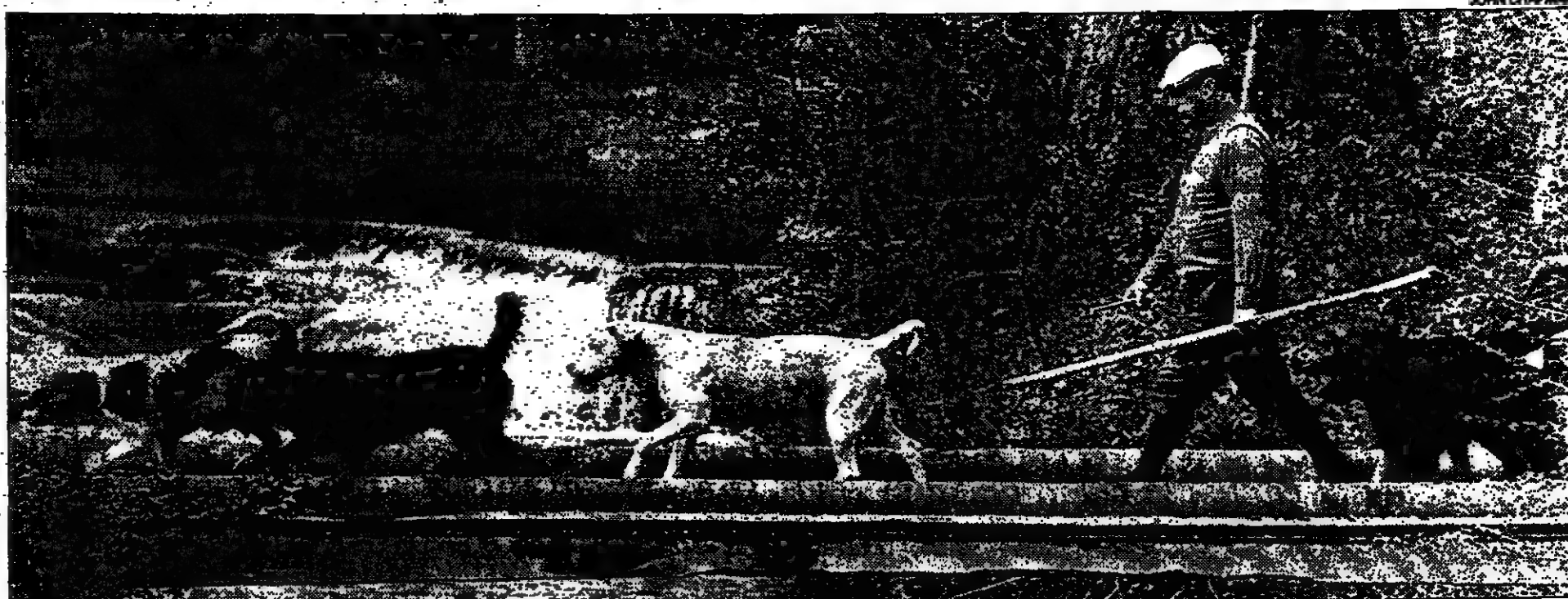
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Hunting where the fur flies

As Harrods bows to current social and environmental pressures and closes its fur department, Nicola Murphy joins what may turn out to be one of the last mink hunts in Britain, and weighs the huntsmen's arguments that they are simply fulfilling a need



Hounding the mink: "On a hot day, it's absolutely gorgeous," a devotee says. "It's not cruel, because the mink do escape." But are the hunters now an endangered species?

This month, after 140 years of selling furs, Harrods closed its salon. As animal rights activists everywhere celebrated, I went hunting for the creature which produces the coats with the highest profile: mink. I joined one of the first hunts of what may well be one of the last seasons. For after a long-running drama, featuring saboteurs and undercover agents, the hunters' traditional stance — that they are engaged in pest control and conservation — is under serious attack.

Often mistaken for otters, mink in fact are much smaller — half the length and a fifth of the weight. Britain's first mink colony was founded in the 1950s, and by 1970, when the fur boom collapsed, there were some 700 registered ranches farming the American mink, Mustella Vision, which had been imported since 1929. Some mink escaped from increasingly badly maintained cages, while some owners simply released them, not expecting any

to survive. "In an act of equally gross stupidity animal liberationists let out more," says John Bryant from the League Against Cruel Sports. In 1975 Mr Bryant was acquitted of the charge of releasing two beagles taken from an ICI laboratory.

Between 1965 and 1970, the Ministry of Agriculture regarded mink as a pest because they attacked farmland poultry, and attempted in vain to eradicate them by trapping. In 1978, mink hunting was officially recognized as a field sport.

Bob Tucker, one of the joint masters of the Ynys Hunt in Dorset, has been first other and then mink hunting for 35 years. An enormous man in green hunting uniform and plus-four, he met me at a pub. When he was satisfied that I had not brought along saboteurs, he allowed to join the hunt, although the white-haired wife of a farmer felt Mr Tucker had not taken enough care: "You're one of them," she said. "I don't like speaking to people like you."

Feelings against saboteurs run understandably high, since their activities can involve violence against hunters. "They're supposed to be animal lovers," says Rose Witcombe, joint master and keeper of hounds for 41 years, "but they killed a bitch by beating her with chains. I'd like to shoot them." The League Against Cruel Sports also condemns such activities. "Their tactics are disastrous as no government can be seen to give in to violence. It's a form of terrorism, and it's particularly evil to terrorize in the name of a humane cause," Mr Bryant says. The league "accepts that farmers have to resort to trapping mink," but its attitude to the hunters has been less benign. They first clashed in the years before 1977, before the latter became a protected species. Mr Bryant recalls jumping in a river to save an otter.

The drama intensified in 1981 when the league successfully introduced a "mole" into the hunters' ranks. He was Michael Huskisson, then the league's press

officer. Huskisson, who had been acquitted on the charge of stealing three beagles from an ICI laboratory in 1975, had been jailed two years later for his part in the destruction of the grave of the huntsman John Peel. Huskisson stayed under cover for two years and then emerged with a film which, among other things, alleged to disprove the mink hunters' claims of an "instant kill". The hunters have always denied the validity of the film. Huskisson was jailed again, in 1986, for his involvement in a raid on research laboratories.

The Ynys huntsmen and "whippers" whom I accompanied took care to ensure that the hounds did not go after deer, and that they did not go into an area where others were thought to be. In fact, nothing at all happened. No mink were found. Some 20 foxhounds, otterhounds and crossbreeds snuffed along the river bank. They only ever barked to "speak" to a rabbit; more cows gave tongue than did any of the dogs. They were watched by a

band of elderly local residents walking their dogs. "On a hot day, it's absolutely gorgeous," a devotee says. "It's not cruel, because the mink do escape."

This, of course, is the argument for "good sport" — but nowadays mink hunting is not supposed to be good sport, but good pest control. When the Master himself admits that the young hounds often "go the wrong way for three-quarters of a mile", this appears a dubious aim.

Arin Rickard, the south-west regional spokesman for the British Field Sports Society and a former Master, makes no such admissions. He says hunting is the most effective means of control, as "mink are wise to traps".

John Birks of the Nature Conservancy Council disagrees. Dr Birks, who wrote his PhD on mink and has conducted post-doctoral research ever since, says: "It's absolute nonsense. You catch

far more mink by targeting sites at risk and using 'live cage' traps. While the hunt is on, other mink could be killing more chickens."

The hunters say preservation of wild life is their main concern: "We're the conservationists," one said; "mink ruin the ecological balance," another added. According to Dr Birks, both are mistaken. He claims that national surveys run by the British Ornithological Trust and Wildfowl Trust indicate there has been no serious decline in wildfowl in the past 30 years — although on offshore islands such as the Hebrides mink do cause considerable damage to ground-nesting birds, such as terns, which are unaccustomed to predators. "Mink are a useful scapegoat, particularly because it is much more satisfying to blame an alien animal," Dr Birks says.

Mr Rickard claims mink make it difficult for others to recolonize, — and have "decimated water-vole and moorhen populations in many areas". In fact, like its cousin, the European mink, the animal has been monitored living

side by side with otters and water-voles, according to Dr Birks. Not mink, but the increased number of crows, he says are to blame for eating the eggs of coots and moorhens.

"The main danger is that so long as they blame mink, as they previously blamed the otters, the real causes will remain undetected," Dr Birks says.

Another area of contention is the extent to which wildlife is disturbed. "All reputable bodies are against hunting because of the disturbance," Mr Bryant says, while Mr Rickard insists that the frequent checking of traps causes more disturbance. "It is in the interests of hunters to keep public sympathy," Dr Birks says. "To do so, some propagate misinformation and blatantly ignore research."

Whoever is right, hunters are undoubtedly an endangered species: in 1987, 19 hunts were registered in *Bailey's Hunting Directory*; today there are 12. It's the mink who are here to stay.

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Never mind the quality, feel the width as the latest thing in unisex, unisex denim hits the streets

Fat, thin, big or small: it's all in the jeans

FAT persons of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your dignity. A jeans manufacturer, calling itself the Legendary Joe Bloggs Company, insists it has invented a pair of one-size unisex denim which flatter the fullest figure. On someone who is slim the jeans are designed to be "flexionally" baggy. On the corpulent they are... snug.

The photographic session where opera singer Katharine Witney agreed to model this novel garment was delayed because the diva was having a little difficulty in the changing room. But it was not, as the photographer suggested, because 30-year-old Ms Witney could not get into the jeans.

"I put on false nails in an attempt to make myself look a bit more glamorous but found I couldn't cope with the fly buttons," she explained. "You can judge for yourself how successful, the jeans, which can span sizes 10 to 20,

are (Ms Witney is seated on the left in our photograph), but Ms Witney, whose vital statistics are 45-35-46, pronounced them "very comfortable. I don't tend to wear jeans because they are usually so tight around the thighs, but these are nice and baggy," she said. "They seem to be built for big ladies. Most designers don't seem to know we do things like go in at the waist, even if it isn't very far."

Shami Ahmed, managing director of Legendary Joe Bloggs, a name he chose because it was "common-sounding and truly British", is planning a £50,000 advertising campaign in this country. Then he intends to launch the LJB jeans in Europe, America and Australia.

Last week the tabloid press gave the jeans, and the company's search for a fit model to promote them, some coverage — since when, Mr Ahmed says, "our switchboard has been jammed".

"It's an absolutely stupid idea," says Michael Reeves of clothes company Steel and Reeves, which caters for sizes 16 to 26. "It's just about an impossibility. The jeans are going to look absolutely different on different sized women. They say men look good in these enormous jeans. I'm 45 and I look perfectly ridiculous."

You can do almost anything with jeans, and over the years the manufacturers have. They have made us lie on the floor, prising ourselves into our drainpipes, they have made us bulge and show our pantie lines in stretch jeans. They have made us dump our little black dresses to wear straight westerns to cocktail parties.

Among today's teenagers the only things to wear are sexual, baggy, flared jeans — and Mr Ahmed has just the job for them, too. "We make the widest flares in England at 25 inches," he says, adding modestly: "There's two things



Bottom line on one-size jeans: a girl and her mum can save money by sharing a pair

in Manchester: one in Strangeways, the other is us." The four-year-old company manufactures one and a half million pairs of jeans a year. The one-size jeans will sell for between £40 and £50, and Mr Ahmed predicts that they are going to be the jeans of the future, inspired not only by the unisex trend but by the economic climate. "A size 16 woman on a diet can end up size 12, she won't have to buy new jeans. A girl and her mum can share a pair; a boy and his dad can share a pair. And a size 10 pregnant woman should be able to keep on wearing her jeans," Mr Ahmed explains.

Only time will tell whether he is right. In addition to jeans, fat women were once advised never to wear white or horizontal stripes. Will we see Dawn French sporting a pair of striped jeans in the next series? Will the Weather Girls be singing "It's Raining Men" and dancing in white jeans at their next concert? "Never," says Mr Reeves.

After-dinner artistry

THE after-dinner speaker, rising to face his tipsy audience, may be disconcerted to realize that he is being judged not only by them but also — and disproportionately — by the grand figure in brass buttons who has just prayed silence for him. But it must be so: every year the Guild of Professional Toastmasters solemnly confers before presenting an award to its After-Dinner Speaker of the Year. The interpretation of after-dinner speaking is rather loose: this year Margaret Thatcher has won the elegant rosewood gavel for her Tory conference speech. The only other Prime Minister to be so honoured was Harold Wilson.

But wherever seasoned speakers meet to compare their witticisms, there will be some resentful mutterings. After all, Mrs Thatcher had an Autocue machine, a carefully designed stage-set and a loyal, hand-picked audience. Would she have been as effective faced with a dog-eared pack of index cards, a howling microphone and a roomful of sceptical Rotarians?

Even the ritziest of £1,000-a-night speakers has to contend with some or all of these handicaps. Those of us who operate rather lower down the financial scale suffer even worse indignities. I have never forgotten the chairperson who cheerily said: "Thank you, Old Mrs Wetherby stayed awake nearly to the end, which is always a good sign", especially as I had been miffing every punch-line in the last 10 minutes because of my growing conviction that Mrs Wetherby had died in her chair. And John Timpon, an old warhorse of the after-dinner circuit, once reported the harrowing experience of getting his fee paid at the table, counted out in florins from the ruffe-money tin.

Mrs Thatcher got her speaker's gavel the easy way

The art of after-dinner speaking involves more than just owning a good speech. Such smoothies as Cecil Parkinson and Jeffrey Archer give chillingly polished performances, but they don't raise the roof. Relaxed audiences like a speaker who sounds as if he (or she) is making it up on the hoof, and might get indiscreet at any moment. This is a magical feeling, generated by the most unexpected people: the Princess Royal, at private, unreported dinners, is surprisingly spontaneous and very funny. Broadcasters such as Brian Redhead are always successful too, their trade having taught them a mock-up conversational fluency that is the opposite of the orator's rant.

Part of the knack is sizing up the audience, its interests, intelligence, sobriety and moral tone. In the front line of real after-dinner speaking you are faced with an unquantifiable company: one showbiz acquaintance was in the act of rising to his feet at a business dinner when the chairman leant across and hissed "Nothing mucky!". He slammed in a mental filter just in time to change the VD joke into one about a parrot.

If Mrs Thatcher's well-supported polish earns her the rosewood gavel, there should be some lesser prizes, too — a cheap pine version, maybe, awarded to a real trouper for courage in adversity. I would favour the literary-lunchcon back who bravely struggles from city to city with his pile of books, preaching to hatted ladies and bored booksellers full of duchesse potatoes.

I once — only once — spoke at two literary lunches in the same week, and my fellow-speaker at both was Gerald Durrell. Meeting on the second day we looked at one another in mild dismay. Durrell said: "Tell you what. You do my speech, I'll do yours. I can remember most of it." If we had dared, we should both have got gavels for it. Compressed-sawdust ones, perhaps.

Libby Purves

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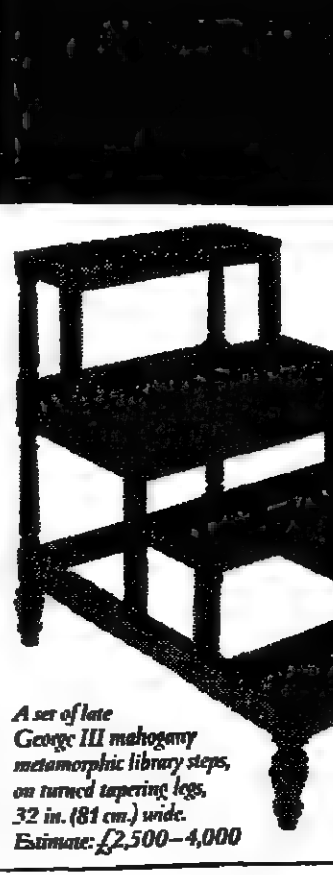
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Pick of the Week



A set of late George III mahogany metamorphic library steps, on turned tapering legs, 32 in. (81 cm.) wide. Estimate: £2,500-4,000

CHRISTIE'S

OUR season of country house sales begins today when contents, surplus to requirements, will be sold at Nostell Priory on the instruction of the Winn Family.

The two-day sale will feature 300 lots of furniture including early English oak, Georgian, Regency and fine 19th century pieces by makers such as Gillow. Works of art, prints, textiles, porcelain, maps, garden ornaments, arms, armour and antiquities acquired by the family over the last 300 years will also be offered.

This set of late George III library steps is included in the sale at Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire on Monday, 30 April and Tuesday, 1 May at 11.00 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone (01) 581 7611 or Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (01) 839 9060.

8 King Street, London SW1
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow

POSTS

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION INNS OF COURT SCHOOL OF LAW REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from professional administrators for appointment to the post of Registrar.

The post demands a high level of administrative, organisational and managerial performance combined with experience of working with computers. An ability to initiate action, whilst handling a heavy work load of a routine nature, is essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Previous experience in educational administration would be an advantage.

The salary will be by agreement, but will not be less than £27,740 per annum (inclusive of a London Allowance of £1,767 per annum).

The appointment will be from 1st July 1990, or earlier by agreement.

Further details are available from the Sub-Dean, The Council of Legal Education, 4 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX (Tel: 01 (071 from 6th May) - 404-5787).

The closing date for applications is Monday 21st May 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for three Professorships:

1. PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS (reference 90-108)
with interests in Radio, Satellite and Telecommunications and Networks or Signal and Image Processing.

2. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRONICS (reference 90-107)
with interests in Control Systems and Microelectronics or VLSI Circuits for Analog and Digital Applications.

3. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (reference 90-109)
with interests in the broad area of electrical engineering, including Control Systems, Magnetics, Power Systems or Power Electronics.

Applicants should have a first class record and strong links with industry.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor J F Eastham, Head of School, tel. Bath (0225) 826068.

Further written particulars may be obtained from Peter J Hill, University Personnel Office, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, tel. Bath (0225) 826026, quoting reference numbers as given above.

Closing date for applications: 8th June 1990



**WESTHILL COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**
The TRUSTEES of WESTHILL COLLEGE wish to appoint for January, 1991 a

PRINCIPAL

who will also be Co-Director of the Newman and Westhill Academic Association.

Westhill College was founded by and is supported by the main Free Churches. It now works in close academic association with the neighbouring Newman College (Roman Catholic) and together they constitute a School within the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies with over 1,000 students training as primary teachers, community and youth workers and church workers. Westhill is also part of the Federation of Selly Oak Colleges which has strong international links.

The person appointed should have good academic qualifications and appropriate professional experience and will be expected to give strong leadership to the Westhill College community and contribute to the development of the academic programmes as Co-Director of the Association and Head, in rotation, of the Colleges School, Creative planning and financial management skills are essential together with a commitment to the unique ecumenical venture in higher education, involving relationships between the Associated Colleges, the University and the Selly Oak Federation.

The salary will be within the range of £35,000 - £40,000.
Closing date for applications: FRIDAY, 25th MAY, 1990.

Further particulars from the Clerk to the Governors, Westhill College, Wesley Park Road, Birmingham, B29 6LL. Telephone: 021-472 7245.

The Colleges School of the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies of the University of Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN CLASSICS

Required for the three months October-December 1990, a Lecturer able to teach ancient philosophy and/or Greek language and literature.

The salary for a full-time appointment will be in the range of £10,458 - £14,703 p.a. on the Lecturer Grade A Scale. Applications will also be welcome from candidates unable to take a full-time appointment but able to teach part-time in either of the fields mentioned.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Personnel Officer, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (Tel: 091 374 4687) to whom applications (three copies, including a full CV and the names of three referees) should be sent not later than Wednesday 30th May 1990.

Please quote reference 525.

oxford polytechnic

Department of Hotel and Catering Management
LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 124-5LC
Salary Scale: £21,177 - £28,911

Applicants should have:
• A degree in Hotel and Catering Management or the Social Sciences and, preferably, membership of the Institute of Professional Management.
• Relevant academic and/or industrial experience.
• A higher degree or research experience would be an advantage.
Responsibilities include:
• Contributing to the teaching of Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations and other aspects on a wide variety of courses in Hospitality Management.
• Contributing to course development and administration.
• Contributing to research and consultancy.
• Contributing to the development of the Institute of Professional Management.

LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN FOOD SERVICE
MANAGEMENT (ONE PERMANENT, ONE TEMPORARY ONE-
YEAR APPOINTMENT)

REF: 125-5LC
Salary Scale: £21,177 - £28,911

Applicants should have:
• A good honours degree in Hospitality Management or an equivalent qualification.
• Significant management experience in the Hospitality Industry.
Responsibilities include:
• Contributing to the teaching of Food and Beverage Management and Hospitality Management on a wide variety of courses.
• Contributing to course development and administration.
• Contributing to research and consultancy.
• Contributing to the development of the Institute of Professional Management.

Appointments will be made on a temporary basis for one year.

CATERING TECHNOLOGIST
(TEMPORARY ONE YEAR APPOINTMENT)

REF: 126-5LC
Salary Scale: £12,427 - £16,521

Applicants should have:
• An honours degree in Food Science or an equivalent qualification.
• Relevant industrial experience.
Responsibilities include:
• Consultancy project management.
• Scientific and technological work to consultancy projects.
• Some teaching to postgraduate students in Hotel and Catering Management.
• Involvement in consultancy through contact with industry.
The appointment is suitable for one calendar year, starting date to be agreed, and may be renewable.

TWO POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS
IN ACCOUNTING FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 127-5LC
Salary Scale: £7,427 - £11,521

Applicants should have:
• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or an associated business discipline.
Responsibilities include:
• Research in Applied Management Accounting. The successful applicant will be expected to prepare for a higher degree.
• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.
Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.

TWO POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN HUMAN
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR
WITH REFERENCE TO THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 128-5LC
Salary Scale: £7,427 - £11,521

Applicants should have:
• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or a related discipline and an interest in human resource management or consumer behaviour.
Responsibilities include:
• Participation in a programme of research on employment in the hospitality industry or on social aspects of the hospitality industry within an department. The successful applicant will be expected to prepare for a higher degree with the CMAA.
• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.
Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.
Closing date for applications: 10th May 1990.

Further details of these posts available from the Personnel Department, Oxford Polytechnic, Gypsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9BP. Telephone: Oxford (01865) 416001 or 416007 (24 hour answer phone service).

All full-time posts open to job sharing unless specifically excluded.

WORKING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



BRENTWOOD SCHOOL (H.M.C.) MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Required for September, 1990, a graduate teacher to join a large and successful MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT and to teach the subject up to GCSE Higher Level. Salary according to the Brentwood Salary Scale.

Applications, giving curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to The Headmaster, Brentwood School, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AS.

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF King's College London AND THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHIATRY

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Joint Department of Psychological Medicine at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry and the Institute of Psychiatry. The Senior Lecturer will be concerned in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Exceptional research opportunities are available and the person appointed will be encouraged to develop their own research expertise.

H/able will receive an Honorary Clinical Contract and will carry out clinical work in adult psychiatry in the new Integrated Clinical Service of King's College Hospital and the Maudsley/Becham Hospital. Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Senior Lecturer/Consultant scale.

Details of the post and the application procedure can be obtained from the Personnel Department, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry on 071-525 3011.

Informal information can be obtained by telephoning Professor Robin Murray on 071-703 6091.

Applications including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Secretary of the School, Bessener Road, London SE5 9PJ by 25 May 1990.



CHIGWELL SCHOOL HMC/IAPS - 600 pupils aged 7-18 CHAPLAIN

required for September 1990.

Excellent facilities.

Rural location: near London.

Help with accommodation available.

Salary above Baker Scale.

Further details from:

The Headmaster
Chigwell School, Chigwell,
Essex, IG7 6QF
01 - 500 2570/1396

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL HOVE

The Governors are seeking applications from committed and caring R.C. teachers for the key post of

DEPUTY HEAD

Girls' welfare will be one of several priorities. Cardinal Newman School is a thriving group 12 mixed comprehensive. 1550 on roll, 250 in Sixth Form.

From January 1991 new spiral scale salaries will be available for the appropriate applicants. Appointment should be for September 1990.

Further information and application forms, s.a.s. please to: The Head, Cardinal Newman School, Hove, Sussex BN3 9QQ

LECTURER IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in English Literature from candidates who are prepared to teach courses in the period from 16th Century. Preference may be given to applicants with specialist knowledge in 20th Century Literature.

The appointment will be made in the salary range £11,000-14,500 with USS.

Further particulars may be obtained from Dr Richard Evans, Secretary and Registrar, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG, Tel: 0280-814080, to whom applications (three copies) should be sent by 30 May.

The University of Buckingham

university college of swansea

European Business Management School

The newly-established European Business Management School is seeking to strengthen further its academic faculty and has created eight new posts in a variety of disciplines.

Chair in Finance or Accountancy Chair in Human Resource Management

Candidates should have a proven research and publication record and excellent teaching credentials. They should be able to provide academic leadership to the existing and new staff within their respective subject areas and be committed to the further development of the School. The salary will be in accordance with normal university practice and not less than £24,783 per annum.

Senior Lectureship/Lectureship in Finance and Accounting Senior Lectureship/Lectureship in Human Resource Management Lectureships in I.T. and Quantitative Methods and in Marketing

Teaching experience is desirable as is a strong commitment to research and publishing. A higher degree is expected and, ideally, applicants should possess a PhD or be close to completion. Particular subject specialisation will not be regarded as a limiting factor for the right candidates. The appointments will date from 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter and will be on the following scales (under review): Senior Lectures: £21,489 - £24,285 per annum Lecturers: Grade A: £10,548 - £15,372 Grade B: £16,014 - £20,469

Confidential informal enquiries may be made to Professor B Gravener (0792 295180), but further particulars must be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP to which office they should be returned by Saturday 30 June 1990.



TRENT COLLEGE

The Governors of Trent College invite applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of

BURSAR

which will become vacant on the 1st January, 1991 on the retirement of the present Bursar. A Boarding and Day School, in membership of the H.M.C., with 610 pupils aged 11-18 years with 246 in co-educational Sixth Form.

Particulars of the Appointment and an Application Form may be obtained from:

The Headmaster, Trent College, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 4AD.

The closing date for applications is Friday 18th May, 1990.

ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

(Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul)

80 St Vincent's Road
St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex TN38 9AT
Telephone: (0424) 438210

Group 4 (S)

Applications are invited from practising Catholics who are qualified and suitably experienced teachers for the post of Deputy Headmaster (Education) of the secondary and boarding school. The school is a Roman Catholic non-maintained Boarding School for girls of secondary age who have emotional and behavioural problems.

Current salary £14,455 per annum plus non-resident Deputy Head Residential Schools Allowance £6,778 per annum (transfer due 1990).

Full CV and letter of application should be sent to the Clerk to the Governing Body by May 14, 1990, with the names and addresses of three referees.

Further details of the post and the school are available from the Headmaster at the school address. Interested applicants are welcome to telephone the school to discuss the post or to arrange an informal visit.

Generous assistance with removal and resettlement will be given in approved cases. There is a possibility of temporary accommodation.

In addition to some teaching duties, the responsibilities of the person appointed will include in-service training, staff development and support, and curriculum development.



HABERDASHERS' ASKE'S GIRLS' SCHOOL ELSTREE

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

Applications are invited, by 25 May 1990, for the post of Head which will become vacant upon the retirement of Mrs S. Wiltshire B.Sc. on 1st August 1991.

Details of the appointment, application forms and further particulars may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Haberdashers' Hall, Staining Lane, London, EC2V 7DD (Fax 806 5738).

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE SPANISH

(HMC, 900 boarding pupils, fully co-educational since September 1989)

Required for September 1990 a well qualified Honorary graduate to teach Spanish throughout the school at A level and O level; entrance standard and also some French, preferably to A level standard. The Modern Languages department is large and thriving, and moves to excellent purpose-built new premises in September. A strong commitment to extra-curricular activities and a willingness to participate fully in boarding school community life are essential requirements.

Salary on Marlborough's own scale. Accommodation available for a single or married teacher.

Applications should reach the Master in person as possible, with full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or more referees, and by 12th May at the latest. Further details from the Master's Secretary, Marlborough College, Wiltshire SN4 1PA (telephone 5155111).

DAME JOHANE BRADBURY'S SCHOOL, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the post of Head, which will be vacant in September 1991. Dame Johane Bradbury's is an independent day school for girls and boys from 4 to 11 years of age and is affiliated to the Independent Schools Joint Council. There are at present 257 pupils and salary will be in accordance with the Scale for a Group 5 School plus 1%.

Full particulars of the post and terms of application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, R.J. Norton, 2 Royston Grove, Royston, Herts. SG8 9EP, to whom they should be returned by 25th May. It is proposed to interview candidates in June/July.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON READERSHIP IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applications are invited for a Readership which has recently been established to strengthen the research of the rapidly developing Department of Computer Science. Research interests in computer science are more important than areas of speciality, but these may be preferences for various areas outlined in further particulars of the Readership which can be obtained from the Deputy Personnel Officer, 107 G A Cuthbert, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. For written enquiries please contact:

Telephone: 01 673 2525

Salary on Senior Lecturer/Reader scale, currently £21,489 - £24,285 p.a. plus £1,767 London Allowance.

The closing date for receipt of applications: Thursday 31st May 1990.

Priceless info for school leavers and graduates.

If it's your ambition to make adverts, headline news or even boost an cruise, don't miss Directions 1990 - the largest Careers and Higher Education Fair of its kind.

From 28th-30th June, experts from a wide range of professions will be giving invaluable advice and guidance, in a series of free seminars at Olympia in London.

Discover what the future could have in store for you, at Directions 1990.

Book now - fill in the coupon below and send to: Kate Dawson, Trotman & Company, 12 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW9 6UA. Tel (0181) 081 from 6 May 1 940 5668.

SEMINAR TIMETABLE

| THURSDAY 28 JUNE | FRIDAY 29 JUNE | SATURDAY 30 JUNE |
|---|--|---|
| 10.30 - 11.10 Enterprise in Higher Education | 10.30 - 11.10 Careers in Public Relations | 10.30 - 11.10 Why enter Higher Education |
| 11.30 - 12.10 Careers in Advertising | 11.30 - 12.10 Why enter Higher Education | 11.30 - 12.10 A Career in the Health Service |
| 1.10 - 1.50 Teaching as a Career | 1.10 - 1.50 Europe in 1992 - how will it affect students? | 1.10 - 1.50 How Sponsorship works |
| 3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Retailing | 2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing | 2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing |
| | 3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Journalism | 3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Hotel & Catering |



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Seminar - A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____

EDUCATION

Learning to write plain English

Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools are often unfathomable. Douglas Broom assesses new moves to make them more palatable for the parent governor



What is happening in our schools? Pupils may know, but inspectors' reports have often left parents confused. Now there are signs that inspectors want to be understood

When it comes to baffling parents with educational jargon, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI) have a record that is second to none. But as a conference in Sheffield heard last week, the arch-obfuscators may yet turn out to be the parents' best allies in the continuing search for real parental power in schools.

Critics have often said that the inspectorate's prose reflects its Victorian origins. But even that fails to do justice to some of the truly awful expressions that have infested its reports.

Descriptions of the "quality of perceived learning experiences" have vied with statements that teaching was "satisfactory or worse" for sheer impenetrability.

The desire to praise what is otherwise plainly awful, has led to accusations that the resulting reports can be all things to all men.

In the days when school governors were hand-picked by local authorities, often for their knowledge of the education system, all this amounted to a minor irritant. But today's elected parent-governors find the lack of clarity infuriating.

As lay folk entrusted with considerable authority over teaching and the curriculum, they need someone to help provide a yardstick by which to measure the effectiveness of schools.

As last week's conference showed, things are changing. Thirty inspectors from all over Britain were brought together to discuss how to write for a lay audience. For a body steeped in the service traditions of confidentiality and official invisibility, the very calling of the conference was a significant development.

Although the HMI would deny having kept anything but an open mind on education for a century and a half, it is far from being an open organization when dealing with those outside its ranks.

Individual inspectors, of whom there are 480 in England and Wales, are not permitted to talk to the Press. Neither are they permitted to allow themselves to be photographed. In the past, too, there was a reluctance to talk

about their reports to anyone other than colleagues. Now there are moves to encourage inspectors to attend governors' meetings to explain their findings.

Operated on strictly hierarchical principles, the inspectorate subjects all its reports to a lengthy process of scrutiny and rewriting. One senior inspector confided: "When I finally saw my report in print it bore hardly any relation to what I had written."

Most reports emerge shorn of controversy and as balanced as they can be between criticism and praise. Some, however, cannot avoid harsh words.

Earlier this year, the inspectors produced their most strongly worded document, condemning shortcomings at Hackney Free and Parochial School in Bethnal Green. From graffiti to homework, the inspectors pulled no punches as they spelled out what was wrong with the 700-pupil comprehensive.

Far from attracting professional opprobrium, their frankness earned them praise.

"We are very aware of the need to be clear and understandable in what we write," said Inspector Charles Whitaker, who organized the Sheffield conference. "I am not sure that all the criticisms in the past have been entirely justified, but we do recognize the need to make ourselves understood. Part of that process is to define our readership."

As interest in education has waned, so has the audience for HMI reports. Ann Holt, the

director of Action on Governor Information and Training (AGIT), says the inspectorate still has a long way to go in responding to the change.

At one rural primary school in Devon, the head told me that none of her parent governors could read. "So how on earth are they supposed to understand HMI reports?" she asked.

"Governors feel very exposed and very much under pressure in their new roles. They need HMI to give them something against which they can measure the success or failure of their schools. Many of them feel lost." One of the inspectors at Sheffield, anonymous because of the rules on publicity, said he would be willing

to talk to a governing body about what he had written. "But I would not be willing to talk about individual teachers. The discussion would have to be based on the report, in which we do not discuss the performance of individual staff," he said.

Ms Holt took a much tougher line. "I think HMI are going to have to be prepared to go into a governing body meeting and justify what they have written," she said. "Governors will not just accept assertions, they will want the evidence to back them up."

James Hammond, the former chairman and now treasurer of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, agrees that HMI must be willing to explain

what they do in terms which parents can understand. "The average parent finds HMI reports quite difficult to fathom," he said. "The reports need to highlight in a simple way what the problems are, and how these need to be addressed. A kind of action summary, spelling out in a form which a lay person can understand what is to be done and over what time scale, would help a lot."

He believes that reports will always err on the side of dullness, if only because of the need to be even-handed.

"The trouble is that those who want to pretend that there are no problems can always find something to justify their belief. An action summary would remove

the opportunity to make HMI reports say what you want."

In fairness, it must be said that the content of HMI reports has slowly improved in recent years, particularly during the tenure of Eric Bolton as senior chief inspector. He has made it clear that reports should be clear and straightforward, and the initiative to improve their style and content launched at Sheffield has his blessing.

Indeed, he gave his own inspectors an object lesson in clarity in his annual report, published in February. The document had been compiled by a group of chief inspectors who put up a draft for his consideration, only to find that he took his red pen to the waffle, and sharpened its tone.

The result was a spate of newspaper headlines highlighting his blunt statement that 30 per cent of children were "getting a raw deal" from the state system.

The furor that followed, in which ministers sought to emphasize his other comments that more than two thirds of lessons were "good or better", only served to underline the dangers inherent in being too forthright.

However, parents and all those with the interests of education at heart must hope that the reaction will not inhibit this welcome move towards greater frankness and clarity.

If parent power is to become a reality, HMI's role as the impartial observer of the education scene will be crucial. Obuseness has clearly had its day.

system would be used to award merit pay rises to good teachers and sack bad ones, a fact you might infer from the following:

Inevitably, a spectrum of teacher performance will emerge from any such activity and poor as well as exceptionally good performance will be identified. It is not clear how far such judgements might be used also to inform decisions about rewards or measures affecting teachers experiencing difficulties. The effective operation of a national system will require clarity.

Finally, an extract from a 1985 HMI survey of history teaching, which is poised tantalizingly on the threshold of comprehensibility:

Although individual historical skills are sequential in that they contain steps of increasing difficulty, teachers know that pupils often leapfrog, sometimes quite unpredictably, intermediate processes to demonstrate skills at an unexpectedly advanced level.

THE Central Catering College, near Waterloo Station, central London, was the main training centre for thousands of school dinner ladies in the days of the Inner London Education Authority. Now run by the London Residuary Body, the college has ambitious plans to become the national training centre for the catering industry.

Move are afoot to cash in on the college's expertise in training staff to cook exotic dishes for the capital's ethnically diverse schools by offering courses in Afro-Caribbean cookery and Chinese cuisine.

What's cooking

FLASH HARRY, the spiv who haunted St Trinian's, that pearl among fictional girls' schools, has been revived by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in the

hope of enticing graduates into a career in local government. Complete with tatty hat and demob suit, Harry graces advertisements with the slogan, "Not all sponsorship schemes come with four guarantees."

The guarantees are a £1,500 bursary for the final degree year, eight weeks' paid vacation work, support and guidance in term time and, of course, a guaranteed town-hall job at the end of it all.

Carl Gilleard, director of the Metropolitan Authorities' Recruitment Agency, which runs the sponsorship scheme, said it would enable local government to compete on an equal basis with private industry for the best graduates.

"We hope this will prove to be an offer no student can refuse," he said, with a nod towards the moustachioed man in the tatty.

Mr Cattigan, who like all undergraduates at Birkbeck is a mature student, complained there had been no formal attempt to "break him in gently" or introduce him to the techniques of essay-writing.

Not so, Professor Foster says, adding: "In fact, this department, like others in Birkbeck, puts much time and effort into study skills. First-year students not only start their course with an induction week devoted to such exposition, but now also follow a Foundation Course throughout their first year intended to address exactly these difficulties."

Describing Mr Cattigan's comments as "both unfair and unfair", Professor Foster notes that on two occasions in the past five years, the best History Firsts in the university have been achieved by Birkbeck students.

THE TIMES - THE SUNDAY TIMES DIRECTIONS CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

DIRECTIONS, the biggest careers and higher education fair held in Britain, will be bigger than ever this year. Details released this week show that sixth-formers and graduates will be able to talk to representatives of 227 universities, polytechnics, colleges and leading companies when the exhibition opens at Olympia, west London, on June 28.

Among newcomers this year are 15 universities, including Aberdeen, Aston and St Andrew's, six polytechnics and five colleges of higher education.

Exhibiting for the first time are Bosch, Dixons, HMV, Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

As well as the chance to discuss courses and careers with institutions and companies, visitors to Directions will be able to consult impartial experts on their chosen career or field of study.

Directions, sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, runs until June 30 in the Grand Hall. Admission is free.

Douglas Broom

you needn't wait, Mr Jones, you're not on the shortlist, man.

you needn't wait, Mr Jones, you're not on the shortlist, man.



heard and read little else but the near national disaster of the teacher shortage, I decided to renew my application to teach. This year, however, has been the most depressing of all.

When I telephoned to ask the admissions tutor at a Midlands college how my first-choice application to his college was progressing, he told me that it was not; he would not be considering my application further.

When I asked why, he said that my degree course was not relevant

to the primary curriculum, that he had many far better qualified applicants than me, that I could compensate for the inappropriateness of my Classics degree by a year's hands-on experience in a primary school.

I pointed out that without a teaching qualification I was not allowed to teach in a primary school. He explained that he had meant experience as a playground attendant or dinner lady.

It must be said that I was affronted to be told that a year as a

playground attendant or a dinner lady might compensate for the inadequacies of my Cambridge Classics degree.

He also said that a degree in craft would have been more appropriate than one in Classics. Craft, indeed, as if you could read craft at Cambridge.

But on to the next rejection. This was from a university which at least summoned me for an interview. This being only the second interview in three years of applications, it must be counted a triumph in itself.

But everything I said or did was wrong; not wrong by normal standards, but wrong by those alternative standards to which anyone hoping for acceptance in teacher training must conform.

My first mistake was to brush my hair and wear a sober dress. The correct thing would have been fashionably weird hair and denim. The second was to mistake the English tutor for the caretaker, as he was not wearing denim I assumed he was not on the academic side and, being in ill-fitting, well-slept-in clothes, that he must be from maintenance.

The other interviewer was a man from Education, wearing the obligatory jeans and denim jacket over a very open-necked shirt revealing gold chains. His hair cascaded down the sides of his head in luxuriant waves but was short and spiky on top.

The English tutor was discussing the Oxford and Cambridge examination boards with me. The man from Education glowered sulkily for some time and then

said crossly that he should leave the room; he was a polytechnic man himself.

I was wrong again when they asked me what I would read with my secondary English literature class. Keats and Coleridge were horribly dirty words. The man from Education sucked in his breath in shocked surprise at Jane Austen and Shakespeare. None of that would really appeal to pupils, said the tutor. What modern American authors would I choose? What literature of ethnic minorities? What Caribbean literature? What foreign authors would appeal in translation?

I ventured, is not the job of the good teacher of English literature to introduce his or her pupils to the stars, to the authors they might not venture to read on their own, unprompted? The good teacher will make Shakespeare irresistible.

Any second-rate teacher can amuse a class with second-rate American trash, I said, and as for Caribbean or ethnic minority literature, it was not in the same league as our own, which should be read first. Homer should be read in translation because of his huge influence...

This was wrong, all wrong, and I, they said, old-fashioned and narrow-minded.

Finally, they asked about my experience with particular schools. I mentioned Winchester and Radley, but was not allowed to finish. "No, no," one of them said, "we mean real schools."

I was shown out in ignominy; wrong in my clothes, wrong in my hair, wrong in my views, and with the extra handicap of having a degree in Classics.

NVQ units and qualifications. The need for such a vehicle to link school to further education and continuing learning has been widely recognized in recent years.

The core skill initiative and the introduction of a National Record could do much to start building bridges between our education and training systems, which have remained divided for too long.

Such a division is particularly unhelpful at a time when there is a general feeling that we must put far more effort into raising the standards of education and training, and the competence of the workforce in the UK, if we are to catch up and then keep pace with international competition.

Young people have the right to a more coherent provision of learning opportunities. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

The author is the director of research, development and information at the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

Both the NCC and NCVQ identify the need for a single record of achievement for use in schools and vocational training to record achievement in core skills. This could take the form of an extended version of the National Record of Vocational Achievement, which NCVQ introduced nearly two years ago. It could be the beginning of a genuinely common national record, accommodating schools' records of achievement, National Curriculum attainments, core skills and

levels. NVQs and any other qualifications, but within which these skills could be assessed, and recorded as credits in any qualification system.

The NCVQ report on core skills, published last week, fully supports the NCC's recommendations, but goes somewhat further in spelling out how they can be specified both in A/AS levels and in NVQs. It also emphasizes that a joint development programme, involving the NCC, the Schools Examination and Assessment Council and NCVQ, will be necessary. The idea is to create a framework of core skills which would stand separate from A/AS

Of course, these are already present in varying degrees within A/AS levels, but the idea is to make them explicit. It will be necessary to identify more clearly just where these skills are developed within subjects, so that students can recognize their value and potential use elsewhere. (That pupils should find it easier to relate what and how they learn at school to their experiences in the rest of life should be one of the major benefits.)

This is where the NCVQ comes in. It has been developing a systematic framework of qualifications covering all types of employment and all occupational levels. It is also identifying core

Gilbert Jessup on moves to end the traditional divide between education and training

The rot at the apple's core

Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) to propose a list of core skills that could be incorporated into A/AS levels, as well as more generally in further education.

The essence of core skills is transferability: they are skills which can be applied to different circumstances. The core now proposed by the NCC consists of six skills which are generally agreed to be essential: vital for life and work in the next century.

They are problem solving, communication, personal skills (defined as self-awareness, independence and the ability to get on with others), numeracy, information technology, and modern languages.

In November, John MacGregor, the new Education Secretary, asked the National Council for

the introduction of a common core of practical skills into A and AS levels is an encouraging step towards breaking down the divide between education and training. The momentum for this development, which is one of a number aimed at producing a higher quality workforce, had been growing.

In February last year, Kenneth Baker, the then Secretary of State for Education and Science, indicated the Government's intention to promote core skills in further education. Then, in October, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) published a report, "Towards a Skills Revolution", which came out strongly for core skills to be built into the curriculum for all young people aged from 14 onwards, whether they were pursuing education or training programmes.

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PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions

TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

LONDON

GEORGE FULLARD (1923-1973): Figure paintings and collages by a neglected sculptor who was among the first British artists to incorporate found objects into his work. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 1732). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, free, until June 1. From Tues.

WILLIAM BROOKER (1918-1983): Deceptively simple and ordered still-life paintings and drawings. Austen Desmond Fine Art, Pied Bull Yard, WC1 (01-242 4443). Mon-Fri, 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-2.30pm, free, until May 24. From Tues.

POLITICAL EUROPE FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR: Recent graphics from the perestroika and new democracy movements. Victoria & Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (01-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-5.30pm, free, until July 1. From Wed.

GOYA'S MAJAS: The Naked and Clothed Majas, two of Goya's most intriguing paintings which show versions of the same woman in the same pose, are on temporary loan from the Prado in Madrid. An opportunity not to be missed.

The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-639 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until July 1. From Tues.

PHILIP DAVIES: Recent figurative paintings. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, SW1 (01-235 0500). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until May 25. From Wed.

RITUALS: Paintings 1948-88 which incorporate hand prints, by Tony Stubbings (1921-1993), who recently featured in a new acquisitions show at the Tate.

England & Co, 14 Needham Road, W1 (01-221 4171). Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, free, until June 1. From Thurs.

JIRI KOLAR: Collages and picture poems by a Czech dissident artist, which make free use of illustrations of famous paintings.

Albanian Gallery, 18 Albanian Square, W1 (01-351 1880). Fri-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 11am-1pm, free. From Wed.

SIR EDUARDO PAOLUZZI: (See picture below right). The Scottish Glasgow School, 20 Cork Street, W1 (01-237 2121). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, free, until May 26. From Wed.

BETWEEN DIMENSIONS: Works by eight abstract artists, including Michael Krieger and Alan Johnston, selected by critic Mel Gooding. Curwen Gallery, 4 Windmill Street, W1 (01-636 1459). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10.30am-1pm, free, until June 2. From Fri.

CONTINUING

LUCIAN FRIED, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON: Painting and sculpture from the largest British private collection.

Seaton Collection, 35a Boundary Road, NW8 (01-584 8293). Fri-Sat, midday-6pm, free, until November.

IN OUR TIME: Photographs by Magnum agency photographers, Carter-Brosnan, Cape, Seidemann, etc. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-281 0127). Daily, 10am-6pm, 24 (conco), until May 6.

VIGNELLI: An exhibition of graphics, products and furniture design. Royal College of Art (Henry Moore Gallery), Kensington Gore, SW7 (01-584 5320). Daily, 10am-6pm, free, until May 12.

FAKE THE ART OF DECEPTION: Six hundred fakes and originals from all periods, including Van Meegeren's infamous 'Vermeers'.

Under the hammer



Art glass has been increasingly popular for some time at auction, particularly Daum, Gallé, Lalique and Tiffany. They have been attracting mega-bucks in New York and Gallé will be the centre of attention when the action moves to Sotheby's in London on Wednesday. There are 64 items by him out of a total of 169 pieces of glass in a sale of applied arts from 1880. Special attention will be focused on a bulbous little vase 15.5 centimetres high engraved with his signature and marked and dated 1894 (pictured here). It is carved with a large moth, a dragonfly and a gnat. The glass ranges in colour from a milky caramel to tones of deep amber with hints of coloured enamels used to emphasize the details of the carving. It is considered a perfect example of his skill and believed to have come from Gallé's own collection; the estimate reflects this at £80,000-£120,000. Another outstanding vase by him is internally decorated in muted greens with a delicate design of elongated mushrooms (£30,000-£50,000). Daum and Lalique are well represented in the sale with 27 and 42 pieces respectively. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Wed, 10.30am-2.30pm.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-5.30pm, 23 (conco), until September 2.

PAINTINGS IN FOCUS: The recent acquisition, Winter Landscape, by German Romantic painter, Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) comes under scholarly scrutiny. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-639 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until May 25.

SYDNEY HARPLEY RA: Popular figurative sculptures of longing. Chris Beetles Gallery, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-639 7551). Daily, 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 4.

MODERN MASTERS FROM THE GELMAN COLLECTION: An astonishing array of 81 important modern paintings by all the greats. Royal Academy of Art, Piccadilly, W1 (01-639 7439). Daily, 10am-6pm, 22.50, until July 15.

JOHN WARD RA: Recent paintings and drawings by a portraitist whose preferred subject is beautiful women. Jeremy Maas Gallery, 15a Clifford Street, W1 (01-734 2302). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, free, until May 11. From Tues. A retrospective of Ward's work is at Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6176). Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, free, until May 24.

ART FROM THE FRONTLINE: Recent art from the frontline states of Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove (041 367 3929). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 1-5pm, free, until June 3. From Tues.

CAMILLE PISSARRO (1831-1903): A manipulative selection of over 50 paintings and drawings by the French impressionist which attempts to show how Pissarro's art was informed by contemporary politics and social developments.

Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough (0462 248155). Tues-Sat, midday-7pm, free, until June 9. From Sat.

THE OTHER STORY: Post-War books by British artists of Asian and African descent, many of which testify to the experience of being black in a predominantly white society. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester (0161 235 5244). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 2-4pm, free, until June 10. From Sat.

JOHN BELLANY: Paintings, drawings and watercolours by a major Scottish figurative artist, all of them completed since the artist's recovery from a liver transplant last year. Compass Gallery, 178 West Regent Street, Glasgow (041 221 6371). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 31. From Sat.

SCULPTURE GARDEN: A parkland setting for works by Reg Butler, Frank Hepworth, Peter Randall-Page and others. Roche Court, East Writtle, Essex (01235 5844). Sat-Sun, 11am-5pm, free, until September. From Sat.

AUCTIONS, SALES

John Shaw

LONDON

STERLING STUFF: Set of six George II silver well scones by Peter Archibald, London 1730, sold by a member of a foreign royal family (£700,000-£800,000) — originally from Dunham Massey, Cheshire. The Gibraltar Cup (£35,000-£45,000) and a rare pair of Nicholas Sprimont candlesticks, London 1748 (£30,000-£40,000) are also highlights in this major silver sale. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, tomorrow and Wed, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

EARLY AND FINE: Contrasting furniture sales with early and continental at Christie's, including a Swiss walnut draw-table (£7,000-£10,000), and fine furniture at Sotheby's. Also several small decorative bookcases from £5,000-£10,000. Christie's, King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-639 9060). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 9am-4.30pm, Wed, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am. Sotheby's (as above). Viewing: today, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Fri, 11am.

ARCTIC ADVENTURE: Thomas Sewall Robins's marine picture of the expedition ship HMS Assistance held in the Arctic ice (1952). An interesting historical picture from the point of view of maritime history as this ship returned from the expedition which brought back to England the first Eskimo to set foot on British soil. He later became a student at St Augustine's Anglican Missionary College, Canterbury. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6802). Sale: tomorrow, 11am.

TRIBAL RELICS: Huge tribal art collection from Africa and India, including Abyssinian chief's silver-headed staff (1987-1990). Acquired by Reuben, collector and dealer. Bonhams, 60-62 Lots Road, SW10 (01-351 7111). Viewing: today, 8.45am-7pm.



Over the years Sir Eduardo Paoluzzi has kept his work simultaneously innovative in form and yet popular and accessible. From his decorative abstract murals in Tottenham Court Road underground station, which are stylistically somewhere between a wiring diagram and a ludo board, to his robotic self-portrait sculpture lurking unsuspected in a pavement alcove on High Holborn, there is the same combination of fun and sophistication. Pictured here is his bronze on a wood base entitled 'Walk Man Study' (1984). A small retrospective of his sculpture, drawings and prints, featuring many pieces in which man and his inventions are spliced together in unlikely configurations, opens on Wednesday at The Scottish Gallery. (See London listings.)

Tues, 8.45am-5pm, Wed, 8.45am-6pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

MOTORING GREATS: Motoring and aeronautical posters recalling drivers like Fangio and Graham Hill. Also some Frank Whitten posters for British Overseas Airways Corporation (£100-£150). Onslow's, Metrolane, Townmead Road, SW18 (01-753 0240). Sale: Tues, 2pm at Cranbrook Hall, Seymour Street, W2.

ANOTHER RACING SET: A selection of pictures to appeal to the racing set at Newmarket, together with a fine Benjamin Williams landscape, probably just beyond the reach of a day's earnings (£7,000-£10,000). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: today, 9am-5pm, Fri, 10am-4pm at Tattersalls, Park, Paddocks, Newmarket, Suffolk. Sale: Fri, 6.30pm at Tattersalls.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BROWSE AT BANBURY: Over four hundred mixed lots in a comprehensive general sale across a wide range of saleroom staples: pottery, porcelain, glass, pictures and much more. Holloways, 49 Persons Street, Banbury, Oxon (0295 253197). Sale: tomorrow, 10.30am.

DECORATIVE: Charles Rennie Mackintosh — a fine book from the Ingram Store Tea Rooms (£2,000-£3,000), and stained and leaded windows by the Glasgow School are among 20th-century decorative arts. Christie's, 104-106 Bath Street, Glasgow (041 332 8134). Viewing: today, 10am-7pm, Tues and Wed, 10am-6pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

DAMBUSTERS: A war-time autograph album from RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, with the signatures of Guy Gibson, Shannon, Maltby and others who took part in the Dams Raid in May, 1943. Evocative souvenir of a classic operation (£400-£500). Vennett-Smith Auctions, 11 Nottingham Road, Gotham, Nottingham (01509 6111). Sale: Thurs, 11am. The Sherwood Business Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham.

PAINTINGS AND SILVER: Cadell, Popple, McTaggart and George Leslie Hunter among the pictures, and 108 lots of Scottish and other European silver in this traditional annual event at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, 10am-6pm (silver only), Tues, 9am-12 noon. Sale: Tues, 11am, pictures 6pm. Viewing and sales on premises.

COUNTRY LIFE: The late Lady Brecknock's house contents sold on the premises at Wharfedale Priory, near Andover, Hampshire. Reasonably estimated objects everywhere from furniture to garden effects, but bid carefully. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Basingstoke, West Sussex (0403 783933). Viewing: on the premises today, 10am-5pm. Catalogue admission: 210. Sale: Wed, 2pm.

TENNANTS TREASURES: George II period silverware, including a silver-plated tea set, 76 pieces wide (£2,000-£3,000), perfect for the country cottage, its two shelves still showing the shadows where the last owner stood the decorative china. Comprehensive spring sale. Tennants, 27 Market Place, Leyburn, North Yorkshire (0539 2770). Viewing: tomorrow, 9.30am-5pm, Wed, 9.30am-5pm. Sale: Thurs, 10am at Old Chapel Saleroom, Market Place, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

SHEFFIELD STAR: Look for 35 portraits by Henry Epworth Allen (1894-1958), a Sheffield artist who developed a wider public audience (est £1,500-£2,000). Phillips, Hepper House, East Parade, Leeds 1 (0532 448011). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 10am-4pm. Sale: Wed, 11am.

Compiled by Karl Knight

Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

GOLD FEET (19): Wayward comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montana, co-written by novelist Tom McGuane with Tom Weir. Keith Carraway, Sally Krandall. Directed by 000-foot talent Robert Downey Jr. (01-493 3647). RCA Cinema (01-493 3647).

THE KRAVYS (19): Brooding, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangster from writer-chefed to director. Peter Medak directs an impressive cast: Gary and Martin Kemp, Elio Gerardo, Candice Paterson (01-257 7034) Cinema Chelsea (01-632 5585) Odessa: Kensington (01-632 8544) Sainsbury: (01-722 8820) West End (01-493 5252/7615) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

MONSIEUR HIRE (19): Intense, stylish version of Simon novel about a bachelor's dark obsession with his neighbour: a rising achievement by director Francis Lawrence, previously known for comedies. With Michael Blanc and Sandra Gorman. (01-493 0891)

NEXT OF KIN (19): A Kentucky clan fights the Mafia. Potboiling Patrick Swayze vehicle, partly saved by John Travolta's director, with Liam Neeson, Adam Baldwin. Canmore: Chelsea (01-352 5085) Oxford: Barnes (01-493 0110) Warner West End (01-493 0791).

CURRENT

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (19): Despond, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Cannon: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Odessa: Leicester Square (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

ALWAYS (19): Spielberg's pushy but poignant romance of a Guy named Joe with Richard Dreyfuss as a dead pilot returning to earth. Cannon: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Plaza (01-493 0837) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG): Amiable if wacky comedy about time-travelling, wacky-headed teenagers. (Kenny Rogers, Alan Rickman. Canmore: Oxford Street (01-493 0837) Odessa: Leicester Square (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (19): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as war-hero Ron Kovic. Metro (01-493 0837).

CELESTINE (19): Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a remote society. Directed by David Long. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Metro (01-493 0837).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, a highly appealing salute to the movie. Outrance: Mayfair (01-493 0837) West End (01-493 0837).

DEAD POETS SOCIETY (PG): Anarchic poetry versus stuffy academics. Peter Dinklage, narrated by a pushy Irishman. Canmore: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

DRIVING MISS DANCY (19): Sweet, endearing film of a lady's play about a retired Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Directed by Bruce Beresford. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Metro (01-493 0837).

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (19): Highly diverting fireworks between a blonde angel (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two comical parents (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Cannon: Shaftesbury Avenue (01-493 8861) Odessa: Kensington (01-493 0111) Leicester Square (01-493 0111).

GLORY (19): Edward Zwick's impressive salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War, powerful. Canmore: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

HENRY V (PG): Visually dazzling version of Shakespeare's play from war-torn Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench. Canmore: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (19): Marianne children battle through their parents' world. Engaging space-fantasy romp. Cannon: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): In London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

JAMES BALDWIN THE PRICE OF THE TICKET (PG): Powerful documentary portrait of the American writer and director of *The Godfather* and *The American*. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): In London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12): Intense comedy about a married man and his talking baby. John Travolta, Kevin Kline and Bruce Willis vs. Canmore: Chelsea (01-352 5085) Odessa: Kensington (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

MACBETH AND MRS MILLER (18): Revival of Robert Altman's modern comedy about a Scottish (Warren Beatty) establishing a bar in a mining town. With Julie Christie. Canmore: Plaza (01-493 2443).

MY LEFT FOOT (19): The Chetwode story, uplifting, funny, marvellously acted, with Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker. Odessa: Kensington (01-493 0111) Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (19): Bob Ralston's wondrous epic about Victorian explorers Burton and Speke searching for the Nile's source. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Metro (01-493 0837).

THE RESCUERS (19): Disney cartoon from 1977, unapologetically old-fashioned and contemporary urban areas. Cannon: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

ROGER AND ME (19): Michael Moore's documentary about the rise and fall of a car factory closures on the director's home town. Canmore: Panton Street (01-493 0837) Odessa: Leicester Square (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

SANTA SANGRE (19): Alejandro Jodorowsky's epic about a young man's blood-soaked fantasy set in a twisting Mexico. Metro (01-493 0837) Plaza (01-493 0837).

SEA OF LOVE (19): Superior thriller, probing with electricity. Al Pacino stars as a New York cop who becomes erotically involved with a murder suspect (Ellen Barkin). Directed by Harold Becker. Canmore: Oxford Street (01-493 0837) Plaza (01-493 0837).

SHOCKER (19): Widescreen thriller film with Michael Flagg as the maddest spirit of an escaped mental patient. Cannon: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (19): Krzysztof Kieslowski's powerful and sensitive tale of love and marriage. Second in the series based on the Ten Commandments. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

SOCIETY (19): Disappointing, under-rated yarn from Brian Yip, producer of *Prime Cuts*. (01-493 0837).

SCOUT BEVERLY HILLS (PG): Timorous comedy about a Beverly Hills wife leading a scout troop. Shawnee: London (01-493 0837) Odessa: Leicester Square (01-493 0111).

THE TRILL FOUR TON (19): Edward Zwick's tale of a woman who marries a man who is a criminal. Canmore: Chelsea (01-352 5085) Plaza (01-493 0837) Odessa: Kensington (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

UNCLE BUCK (19): Funny comedy with John Candy as a red-headed uncle who is his brother's father. Canmore: Baker Street (01-493 9778) Plaza (01-493 0837) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

THE WAR OF THE ROSES (19): Aided by a perfect marriage of director and stars, Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Canmore: Chelsea (01-352 5085) Plaza (01-493 0837) Odessa: Kensington (01-493 0111) Whiteleys (01-732 3333/3334).

THE WILDERNESS (19): A powerful and sensitive tale of love and marriage. Second in the series based on the Ten Commandments. Panton: Panton Street (01-493 0837).

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2165

ACROSS

- 1 Dutch potato spirit (8)
- 5 Highland dress (4)
- 9 Bank clerk (7)
- 10 Barge balloon (5)
- 11 Making inferno (13)
- 12 Recruit (5)
- 13 Steersman (5)
- 15 Command withdrawal (5,1,7)
- 21 Calabash (5)
- 22 Principled (7)
- 23 Scale (4)
- 24 Nineties (8)

DOWN

- 1 Foot cloths (5)
- 2 Rapidity (5)
- 3 Cropping up (7)
- 4 Heavy VII throne predecessor (6,7)
- 6 Inaugural (7)
- 7 Head crest (3,4)
- 8 New Test "father" (4)
- 12 Pinnace (3)
- 13 Coder (7)
- 14 Defended outpost (7)
- 15 Casual firing (3,4)
- 16 Egg cells (3)
- 18 Unctivil (4)
- 19 Surpass (5)
- 20 Anklebone (5)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

TELEVISION AND RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR
AND GILLIAN MAXEY
● CRITIC'S CHOICE PETER WAYMARK

6.00 **Cosplay**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Laurie
Mayer and Jill Dando 5.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 **News and weather** followed by
Open Air: Viewers comment on the
weekend's television programmes
9.20 **Global Live**: Typical issues aired
before a studio audience presented by
Gloria Hunford
10.00 **News and weather** followed by **The
New Fred and Barney Show**
10.25 **Children's BBC**: Children with
Playdays (10.50) **Bury** (10.50)
10.55 **Five to Eleven**: Patricia Routledge
with readings from Julian of Norwich
11.00 **News and weather** followed by
Open Air: Includes a location report
from **Open Air**: **Great and Small**
12.00 **News and weather** followed by
Daytime Live: 12.55 Regional news and
weather
1.00 **News with Philip Hayton**: Weather
1.30 **News**: (Crest) 1.50
1.55 **Children's BBC**: **Scoring quiz**
game presented by Angela Rippon
2.15 **The Six Million Dollar Man**:
Harrison's fantasy adventure series
3.05 **Bazaar**: Includes **Bernadine**
Lawrence spending 24 on a Sunday
lunch for 3.30 **The Pink Panther**
Show (4)
3.50 **Bananas** (1) 3.55 **The Shrink** (1)
4.10 **The Quack Chat Show** (1) 4.35
4.50 **News** (1) 5.10 **Blue Peter**: The
Duchess of York encourages children to

take part in the Sports Aid
Foundation National Fun Run Day on
Sunday. (Crest)
5.35 **Neighbours** (1) (Crest) Northern
Ireland: Sportswide and Inside Usher
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Andrew
Harvey and Mica Stuart. Weather
6.30 **Regional news** magazines.
Northern Ireland: **Neighbours**
7.00 **Wogan**: With the pop group New
Kids on the Block. Tins and, via satellite
from California, Charles M. Schultz,
creator of the *Peanuts* cartoon character
7.35 **Best of British**: More clips from the
films of Lord Law Grade, proving that on
the whole his flair for showmanship
did not translate happily to the big
screen. (Crest). Northern Ireland:
Double First
8.00 **In Sickness and in Health**: Johnny
Spight's Alf Garnett takes his biography
and monologues to Australia (1)
(Crest)
8.30 **Joint Account**: Lip role-reversal
comedy starring Peter Egan and Hannah
Gordon. (Crest)
9.00 **Party Election Broadcast** on behalf
of the Liberal Democrats
9.05 **News with Michael Buerk**: Regional
news and weather
9.35 **Panorama: Doctoring the Reforms**:
Is the Government losing its nerve over
its National Health Service policies?
10.15 **Miami Vice**: Guns and sun police
11.05 **The Rock 'n' Roll Years**: The
curious concoction of news clips and
pop songs reaches 1981, when the
Soviet Union's Yuri Gagarin was the first
man in space. Berlin got a new



Yuri Gagarin was a first for man (11.05pm)

well and the charts were dominated by The
Shadows. Roy Orbison, Rocky Nelson
and Helen Shapiro (1). (Crest)
11.35 **Advice Shop**: War disbursement
pensions (1). Northern Ireland: The Rock
'n' Roll Years 12.00 **Advice Shop**
12.05 **News**: Northern Ireland 12.40

7.10 **Open University: Data Modelling** —
The Wood from the Trees. Ends at 7.35
8.00 **News** 8.15 **Weather**
8.30 **Four-Legged Soldiers**: The work of
the Royal Veterinary Corps (1) 8.50
Living on the Land: A profile of a
Yorkshire estate owner (1)
9.25 **Horizon**: The intelligent island
For the very young 10.15 **Musical**
version of an Andersen fairytale 10.40
Putting together a Photograph 11.20 **Home**
economics 11.40 **Problems for 10**
12-year-olds 11.45 **Computers in the**
classroom 11.50 **Emergency first aid**
12.00 **Science for the young** 12.15
Europe's post-war problems 12.35
Maths for 12 to 15 12.50 **Children talk**
about weddings 1.30 **A level biology**
1.20 **Green Clive** 1.40 **A Victorian**
childhood
2.00 **News and weather** followed by
Words and Pictures 2.15 **Songs of**
Robert Burns (1) 2.30 **Cast a Spell**: In 1973 a child took
made to the specifications of a
medieval monk (1)
3.00 **News and weather** followed by **The**
Last Place on Earth: Life in the remote
Tibetan village of Kanchen in the
Kingdom of Zaskar where life goes on
May 1973 the same 12.50 **Children**
1,000 years (1) 3.50 **News**, regional
news and weather
4.00 **Junior Darts**: Tony Gubbie
introduces highlights from the British
Youth Darts Championship. The
commentators are Sid Waddell and Tony
Crispin
4.30 **Westminster Select Committee**:
The Commons Home Affairs
Committee's report on the work of
the Crown Prosecution Service,
presented by Vivian White



Charles Wainwright as Judge Priest (5.05pm)

5.00 **Film: The Sun Shines Bright** (1933,
b/w)
5.05 **Delightfully unassuming picture**
from John Ford, with the genial pop-sy
Charles Wainwright as Judge Priest,
standing for reelection in his old
Kentucky town where memories of
the Civil War die hard. This is Ford in his
mellow, affectionate, and sentimental
America in a way that the film-
makers of the more cynical 1960s and
1970s found impossible. Nor would
Stephen Foster's go-go-go songs have
passed muster in a later, more
sensitive era. But simple humanity
infuses beautifully staged Fordian
set-pieces, such as the independence
Day ball and the funeral of the
Groat
5.30 **Life begins with That**: This
is Now. A look at the multi-talented
Joe Jackson, once the 'angry man'
of the pop world 7.00 **La Carrera**: The
Pan American road race from

Guatemala to the Texas border involving
more than 100 cars of all shapes and
sizes

7.40 **Italian Regional Cuisine**: In Puglia,
on the southernmost tip of Italy, the
antipastis *salentina* has the
raw squid, octopus and the regional
pasta specialty, *cenciotti*. She
also looks at the region that produces
exquisitely the most exotic of all the
cuisines — Sicily. (Crest)
8.00 **Horizon**: The intelligent island

A food-for-thought report from
Singapore which may be a tiny republic
of 2.6 million people but enjoys the
highest standard of living in Asia outside
Japan. The latest in engineering in
National Information Technology Plan
which will make it one of the world's
most advanced IT societies. Few areas
of the economy and culture will be
untouched. In a state dedicated to the
pursuit of wealth and efficiency,
every car and train journey could be
logged and every home and
business linked to every arm of
government. The plan's ultimate aim
is to connect the entire population
electronically through an advanced
photo-voice system called *Television*.
Could it — should it — happen?

8.00 **Film: Murder in Cowles County**
(1952) starring Johnny Cash and Andy
Griffith. Routine, much-to-be-shed
Western about a hard-bitten sheriff
determined to bring to justice a local
bigwig who thinks he has got away with
murder. Directed by Claydon
10.30 **Party Election Broadcast** on behalf
of the Liberal Democrats
10.35 **News**: The latest national and
international news including extended
coverage of the leading story of the
day. Presented by Donald MacCormick
11.20 **The Late Show**: Arts and media
magazine
12.00 **Weather**
12.05 **News**: Open University: Arts
Foundation Course. Ends 12.35

TV LONDON

6.00 **TV-ant** begins with **News** followed
by **Good Morning Britain** presented by
Geoff Clark and, from 7.00, by Mike
Morris and Louise Kelly. With news at
7.30, 7.50, 8.10, 8.30, 8.50 and
9.00. After Nine includes a discussion
on test tube twins
9.25 **Cross Wit**: Word game for
crossword fanatic 9.55 **Thames News**
and weather
10.00 **The Time**: The Place... Mike
Book returns to host another discussion
on a current issue
10.40 **This Morning**: Magazine series
presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard
Medley. Includes a new series of
details of National Environment Week
and items on car maintenance,
astrology, food, fashion and gardening.
With national and international news
at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55
11.00 **News** with Michael Buerk
12.10 **Playbox**: Educational programme for
the under-fives (1) 12.30 **Home and**
Away: Australian drama series about
a couple and their five foster children
1.00 **News** with John Suchet. Weather
1.30 **Thames News** and weather
1.30 **Hollywood Sports**: Serial in which
the viewer chooses the storyline 2.00 **A**
Country Practice: Australian
medical drama serial set in the remote
sheep town of Wandan Valley
2.30 **Magnum**: Private investigator series
starring Tom Selleck as a sun-kissed
Hawaiian detective 3.30 **Thames**
News with John Suchet. Weather
3.50 **News** with Michael Buerk
4.00 **Coconuts**: Cartoon set on an exotic
tropical island 4.05 **What's-Means**:
Adventures of an Afghan hound
puppy (Oracle) 4.20 **The Final**
Ghostbusters (1)

TV LONDON

4.40 **Discourse: Same Difference** — All
About Twins. The experiences, both
amusing and serious, of a number of
sets of twins between the ages of five
and 17. The programme reveals that
not all twins are identical and that some
are not particularly close. Those that
are sometimes feel each other's pain
with others cannot live in the same
house
5.10 **Fun & Games**: Bubbly Rob Buckman
and captivating Celia Hoyles prove that
you don't have to be a mathematical
genius to solve puzzles
5.40 **News with Sue Carpenter**: Weather
5.55 **Thames Help**: Jackie Spradley
encourages viewers to take part in
Environment Week
6.00 **Home and Away** (1)
6.30 **Thames News** and weather
7.00 **Just for Laughs**: Variable selection
of clips from old British comedy films
7.30 **Concoron Street**: Kevin takes a
decision that could alter the lives of two
of his friends, and an angry husband
is out for revenge. (Oracle)
8.00 **Strike It Lucky**: Michael Barrymore
introduces this week's edition of the
high-tech, light-hearted quiz show
8.30 **World in Action**: As Parliament
prepares to debate new controls on
Britain's dogs this gritty
documentary series investigates the
obsession to own a powerful dog.
The programme was made over a period
of three weeks, filming with the
police and the RSPCA's specialist dog
team in London who are now
specifically trained and equipped with
"riot gear" to deal with dogs like pit
bull terriers and Rottweilers.
9.00 **Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at**
Dinner (1985). Peter Ustinov stars as
Hercule Poirot in a faithful version of
a vintage Christie novel *Lord Edgware*
Dies. You can tell that the story,
originally set in the Thirties, has been
updated because it has Poirot
travelling to London to appear on a chat

show. The little grey cells are called
into action when a third Englishman is
found dead, shortly after his film star
wife has publicly asked for a divorce at a
dinner party. Also starring Faye
Dunaway and David Suchet (who has
since proved to be a more convincing
Poirot than Ustinov). Directed by
Robert Swickard. Continues after the news
10.00 **Party Election Broadcast** on behalf
of the Liberal Democrats
10.05 **News** with Michael Buerk. Weather
10.35 **Thames News** and weather
10.40 **Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at**
Dinner continued
11.25 **The Struggle for Democracy**:
Patrick Watson describes how
democracy in a small Mexican village
is threatened by a corrupt Press, dirty
politics and the drug war
11.55 **Murphy's Law**: The engaging
George Segal stars as the Family Circle
editor, a reformed alcoholic who is
now an insurance investigator — tonight
being pursued by the FBI who think he
is a mobster
12.45 **Sam Sportsweek Extra**: Tony Francis
introduces tennis from the Family Circle
Cup in the United States in which
the 14-year-old prodigy Jennifer Capriati
met the veteran Martina Navratilova.
Plus a round-up of the weekend's
footbal at home and abroad
1.45 **Spy**: Polished spoof espionage
series starring Robert Culp and Bill
Cosby
2.45 **The Comedy Store**: More alternative
comedian talent introduced by Chris Tarrant
3.00 **Eurovision Song Contest**: From Paris
Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart perform
Savage — the Complete Concept.
Followed by News headlines
4.00 **60 Minutes**: Interviews and
investigations with the United States
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman.
Ends at 5.00

TV CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Art of Landscape**: Beautiful
natural images with soothing music
6.30 **The Channel 4 Daily**
6.55 **Scoti**: The Channel 4 Daily
12.00 **Time to Remember** (b/w). 1941 —
Operation Barbarossa and the invasion
of Poland
12.30 **Business Daily**
1.00 **Sesame Street**
2.00 **The Customer Connection**: Who
Cares? What? Communication with
customers (1). (Oracle)
2.30 **Film: Orders Are Orders** (1954, b/w)
starring Brian Reece. Fast and furious
services force directed by David
Pathe
4.00 **Film: World Within a Ring** (1978). A
documentary about Gary Cooke's
Circus, directed by Stanley C. Marks
4.30 **Fifteen to One**
5.00 **The Late Late Show** presented by
Gay Byrne in Dublin
6.00 **Listening Eye**: Sign of Our Times.
The second in a new series celebrating
the 10th anniversary of the
Channel 4 television service
6.30 **Happy Days**
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and
Zainab Bewaji
7.50 **Comment** followed by **Weather**
8.00 **Brookside**. (Oracle)
8.50 **News**
9.00 **Timothy West's Churchill**:
Bradley Hargrove tries to tell peo-
ple's (indefatigable air raid shelters) to
the War Office in episode two of this
triumphantly revised comedy.

TV CHANNEL 4

Meanwhile Lady Patricia plans to
struggle her grown-up children out of
London by dressing them as child
evacuees and Matthew, now in the
RAF, proposes to Charlotte: "I am
asking you to be my widow." These,
and other jokes, demonstrate how well
the writers John Stevenson and
Julian Roach are exploiting our revised
versions of the Second World War,
although there may be an unwitting nod
or two towards the sublime *Battle of*
Britain sketch from *Beyond the Fringe*
9.00 **Cutting Edge: No Home for Barry**
9.00 **Cutting Edge: No Home for Barry**
A trenchant documentary diary of
a teenager's first three weeks in London,
alone, homeless and jobless, after
running away from his family on the
south coast. A round-faced 17-year-

old with no qualifications but obvious
intelligence, Barry is soon evicted from
the hostel which gives him
temporary shelter and sleeps rough
in doorways, begging money to keep
himself fed. Not the easiest person
to help, he prevaricates when offered a
job interview and spurns the offer of
prospect of £80 a week as too little to
live on. He traces his plight back to
his parents' broken marriage. He cannot
get on with his father and there
seems little prospect of reconciliation
with his mother. Director Christopher
Shedden (who has made some strong
films for the BBC's 40 Minutes
series) records but does not judge,
leaving the viewer to apportion
blame, if any.
10.00 **Vintage Comic Strip: The Bad**
News: Four. More comic strip from Ade
Edmondson and the team (1)
10.40 **The Parade**: Prize-winning Polish
documentary on the bizarre personality
cult of North Korea's leader, Kim Il
Sung
11.50 **Film: The Consultation** (1984). The
New York Times Yugoslav who is
Radojevic Tadija. A woman's
psychiatrist and finds that all is not
what it appears. With subtitles. Followed by
12.15 **Film: Emile de Jeunesse** (1988,
b/w) starring Francis Frappet as a poet
who lives next door to an old woman
who leads rich men to suicide. She
introduces him to the beautiful
Francoise (Genevieve Darnay), an
evening angel. With subtitles.
Ends at 1.55

FM Stereo and MW
New News on Radio 4 from 8.30am
until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30, 10.30pm
8.00am **Weekend Breakfast** 8.30 **News**
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TEMPUS

No bid sunshine to lift Asda gloom

ASDA today closes the books on the year to April 1990, a period that has ended with the shares standing at their lowest for seven years. The group is expected to report pre-tax profits of £180 million against £247 million last time, according to Morgan Stanley. Recovery is expected to be slow, with profits of £200 million forecast for the year to April 1991.

The patience of shareholders has been sorely tried and they may seek to console themselves with hopes of a bid. The group's 5.2 per cent shareholders, the Canadian Betzberg brothers, are known to have approached Mr David Fisher of the Ashley group to lead a potential break-up bid, and at least one institutional shareholder was calling last year for the resignation of Asda's chief executive, Mr John Hardman.

But even at their current level of 92p there is not a great deal to tempt a break-up bidder. According to BZW in its latest *Value Investor*, it would be uneconomical, taking a five-year view, for a leveraged buyout team to pay more than 115p to 120p a share. At 120p the rate of return for any bidder would be 18.2 per cent over a five-year period.

A bidder would have to grapple with Asda's £900 million of debt, which looks set to rise to more than £1 billion this year. Other off-putting

factors include the soggy property market, which makes property disposals less attractive, a 25 per cent stake in MFI and Asda's strategy of combining food and non-food retailing. Allied Carpets is expected to have made no profit in the year just ended and the short-term outlook for the furniture market remains gloomy.

Asda is the only large food retailer making a virtue out of selling non-food in its stores. Tesco has been pulling out of non-food over the years and has felt the benefits. Mr George Davies's design skills have given the Asda clothing operations a boost, although clothing results for the year just ended are expected to be down on last time.

Assuming profits of £180 million for the year just ended, the shares are trading on a p/e ratio of just over nine, cheap, but not that cheap. Long-term holders of the shares should hold on a little longer and sell into any rally. For the rest there is no rush to buy.

SD-Scicon

IT IS now a month since the computer systems and software group SD-Scicon was put "into play" via a footloose 25 per cent stake held by British Aerospace. So far, the silence is deafening.

With every penny SD-Scicon shares fall the more



Hard task ahead: John Hardman, Asda chief executive

tempting a target the company becomes. On Friday the shares shed a further 5p, slipping to 72p against a 1990 high of 82p.

The standstill agreement between the two companies ended on March 25, since when BAE has neither purchased more stock nor had an acceptable bid for its own shares. The software industry though, is in no doubt that BAE is a seller and that SD-Scicon is a highly prized strategic asset in Europe's computer services business.

Currently, earnings are depressed by the cost of merging both the old Systems Design

ers and Scicon businesses. Mr Philip Swinstead, group chairman, feels that the worst is over and that an 8 per cent return on turnover is possible in the not too distant future. That indicates profits well in excess of £20 million compared with a 1989 total of £7.2 million, ravaged by restructuring costs and exceptional items.

The chairman's view is supported by independent forecasts from the brokers James Capel and County Natwest WoodMac, which see profits of £15 million this year rising to £19 million or more in 1991.

But the prospects of an agreed bid (it would certainly need to be blessed by the highly mobile staff) overshadow the upside in SD-Scicon shares on trading grounds. Capel has looked at recent deals including the AT&T purchase of Istel and the likely sale value of Hoskyns plus a number of continental transactions.

Without taking an extreme line, the broker suggests that a reasonable take-out price is about 125p per share, a 74 per cent premium on the current market level.

When it comes, the bid could be a bloodless affair. Aside from BAE's 25 per cent, Morgan Grenfell clients hold 19 per cent, the Pru has 6 per cent and the board speaks for a further 9 per cent. Clearly SD-Scicon is a share to watch.

Molins

MOLINS shareholders stick with their board like glue. They have been bid for five times in less than five years, and the latest attempt looks doomed to fail.

The offer on Molins' table is 252p cash from Leucadia — the New York group which took over Ivan Boesky's vehicle Cambrian & General Securities in 1989. Molins' tried and tested defence machine is again in action.

Molins shareholders should sit tight. Not only is the share

price, at 270p, comfortably above the offer, but it is still well below not only Molins' own valuation — but also well below what Olliff & Partners, Leucadia's own broker, once thought it should be.

Three months ago — at a time when Molins was fresh from seeing off a 230p-a-share bid from Sir Ron Brierley's IEP, Olliff published a circular on Molins concluding its worth was 485p a share.

The irony is that when IEP finally sold out of Molins, its parcel of 33 per cent of Molins was sold to Leucadia. Under takeover rules, Leucadia was then obliged to make a bid.

The broker's view of Molins' worth will not have been lost on Molins' institutional shareholders, which include M&G, with its 18.6 per cent holding, Prudential (5.3 per cent), and the US Heine Securities group (5.5 per cent).

Molins spent £1.13 million in its last financial year fighting off Sir Ron, and will be spending more funds this year fighting off Leucadia.

Meanwhile, because it holds such a commanding number of Molins shares, Leucadia is in a position to block any special resolution which Molins, in the ordinary course of business, might feel should be proposed.

Sit tight, Molins shareholders, and await offer number six.

GILT-EDGED

Failings that robbed market of its friends

Readers of this column have been faced with a diet of unremitting gloom since the beginning of the year. Gilt yields continue to rise as inflation approaches double-digit levels, the trade deficit rears its ugly head again and the real economy trends a fine line between recession and anaemic expansion.

As an economist for a Japanese securities house, I perceive the view of Tokyo investors both with regard to the gilt market and the economy as less than encouraging.

Ten years of a Conservative Government appear to have done little to improve Britain's economic performance, especially relative to Continental Europe where countries such as France, the Netherlands and West Germany have a much more attractive inflation/output mix.

In addition, the bungling over the poll tax and Labour's lead in the opinion polls are leading Japanese investors to think that Tokyo's favourite politician — Mrs Thatcher — might be heading for early retirement.

Indeed, there are increasing questions over the competence of the Government in the economic policy sphere.

The Treasury's "firm" exchange rate policy, for example, stretches even the credibility of Japanese investors long used to the concept of "tateme" (loosely translated as the gap between rhetoric and reality). Economic policy is now increasingly dictated by electoral expediency.

The Government's reluctance to "Europeanize," as well as the "foot-dragging" over full EMS entry, is also regarded as puzzling. The British attitude threatens London's role as the premier financial centre in Europe and increases the attractions of Frankfurt for the Japanese.

It is certainly the consensus view in the London markets that mid-1991 is a likely date for British entry. By then, the argument goes, "headline" retail price inflation will be close to the Treasury's 5 per cent projection for the second quarter of 1991. This should be sufficiently close to the average EC inflation rate to ensure the Madrid conditions for British entry are fulfilled.

While it is not too difficult to bring down British inflation to these levels as this year's price hikes wash out of the year-on-year RPI comparison (aided no doubt by lower mortgage rates in 1991), "underlying" inflation is likely to

be about 8 per cent or higher. This largely reflects growth in unit costs of about 10 per cent and the lagged effects of a weak pound on import prices (up 9 per cent on a year ago). Even if the economy tips into recession, the rise in unemployment is unlikely to be sufficiently large or prolonged to significantly alter pay bargaining behaviour or diminish the threat of a wage-price spiral.

Even with a falling Budget surplus, Mr Major has sufficient fiscal ammunition, as well as room to reduce interest rates, to kick-start the economy out of any possible recession. Failure to do otherwise ensures the prospect of electoral defeat will loom even larger.

Entry into the ERM against this background of poor "underlying" inflation could intensify the interest rate risks facing the Conservatives just before a general election (in late 1991, say). Consequently, there are very good reasons to think that British entry could be delayed until after the election. Of course, by then Chancellor Smith could be running the show from Number 11 and it is difficult to believe that economic performance and management could be much worse than now.

In the meantime, the gilt market remains friendless. Speculation of a gilt issue adds to the upward pressure on yields and is being regarded as a back-door method of monetary tightening, given Mr Major's base rate shyness.

Certainly, global bond market conditions are not helpful. The US quarterly refunding is unlikely to attract significant Japanese interest even with the yield on the US long bond at 9 per cent. Yields typically go up before and after a May auction in the US and yields of 7.4 per cent in the yen market are enough to divert the attention of a sizeable proportion of Japanese bond investors.

A possible delay by the Bundesbank in raising interest rates might provide sterling with a breathing space until the next set of inflation and trade figures. No doubt the Treasury will be working overtime to convince us that erratic items or unseasonal factors are responsible for the next set of bad figures. But DM2.50 still looks a plausible year-on-year target, though long gilt yields could well touch 14 per cent before then.

Neil MacKinnon
Chief Economist
Yamaichi International

US NOTEBOOK

Bonds signal need for tighter money

FEARS and expectations that the Federal Reserve Board might tighten monetary conditions were moderated on Friday with the publication of GNP data for the first quarter.

The outcome was lower than expected, while inflation over the two quarters to end-March was not much different from the 4.4 per cent annual rate that has prevailed for some time.

There were heightened expectations last week of imminent Fed tightening, aroused by the evidence that three key indicators were performing badly.

In all respects these indicators — the dollar, commodity prices and the yield curve — were (and mostly still are) demanding that the Fed move to a far more restrictive policy stance.

Fed thinking seems to be: trying to run monetary policy by watching and attempting to control the movement of monetary aggregates is next to useless these days due to the confusion caused by the deregulation of the financial markets.

Therefore, the Fed watches the "auction markets," of which the crucial ones are the dollar, the yield curve and commodity prices. As the dollar weakens, the need to tighten increases. At present, the dollar looks strong but it would be truer to say the "yen is weak."

The bond market is saying inflationary expectations are rising. Some time ago, Mr Wayne Angell, a Fed governor, said: "We will know we are succeeding in our monetary policy when the bond market rallies."

In other words, a measure of success or failure of policy would be the level of bond prices. As bond prices have been tumbling, the Fed would no doubt feel its policy is failing.

When commodity prices are rising, the Fed's policy is failing. When they are stable or falling, the Fed's policy is succeeding.

At present, commodity prices are on an unrelenting

rise. Since its low of 222 in mid-1989, the Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices has risen to 242 — a rise of 9 per cent, which is clearly unacceptable.

By all these criteria, Fed policy today is far too loose. Whether the hawks at the Fed are able to muster the rest of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee behind them remains to be seen.

There is some question whether Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman, will go along with a more aggressive policy of tightening, due to the fierce political pressure being exerted for lower interest rates.

However, those arguing for tightening could say to potential critics that unless Fed policy is tightened the bond market is only going to sink ever lower.

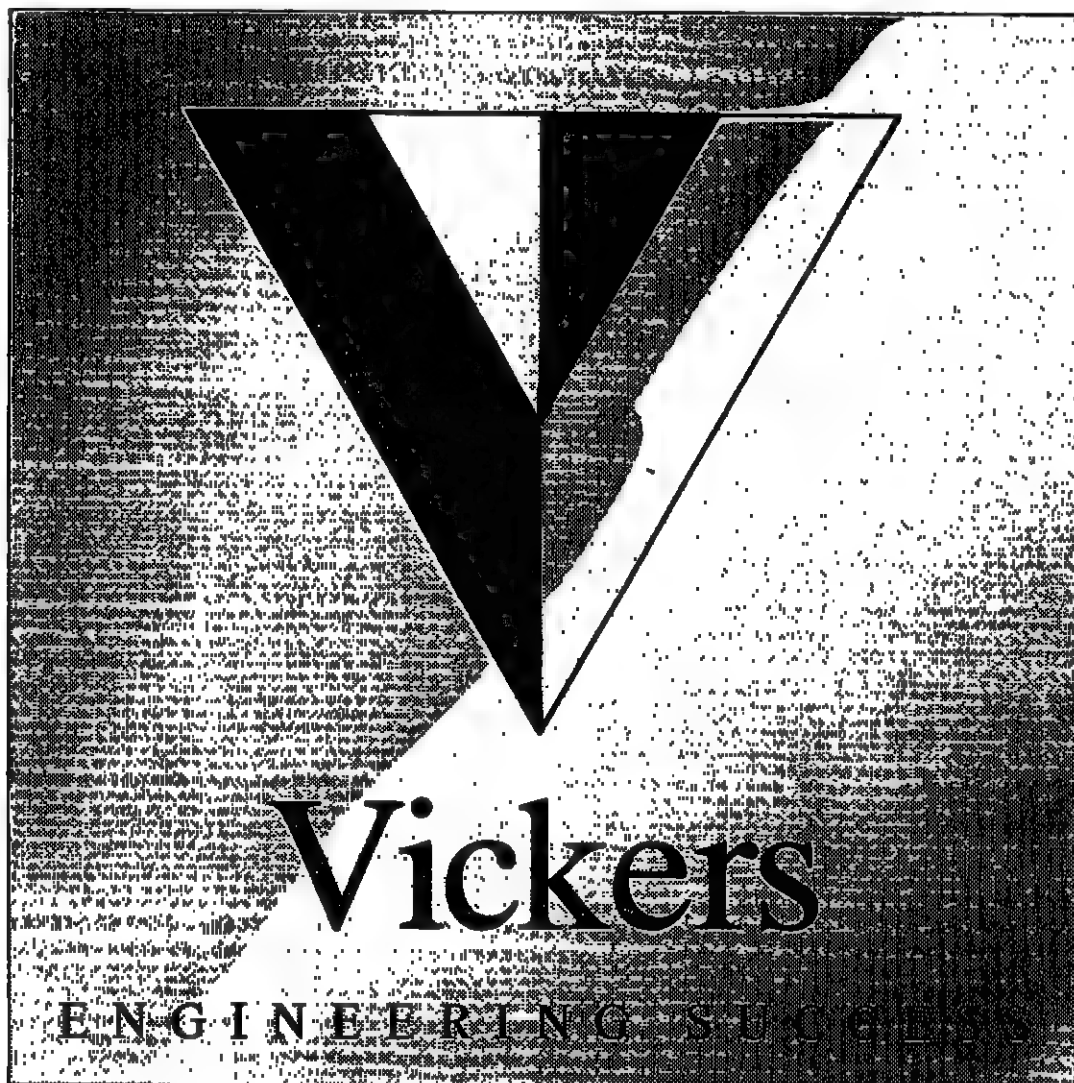
The extreme malaise in the bond market is leading to huge liquidations of all long positions.

The rush out of long positions into short positions is killing business in the financial markets. No one wants to be in a long position — so new issues, mergers and acquisitions, corporate loans and of course junk bonds are out. Fear has taken over.

But as long positions are liquidated at loss, the funds being poured into money market mutual funds, T-bills and bank deposits are not being used by the banks. Instead, all new cash coming into the banks is being used to support their deteriorating balance sheets and to finance the enormous losses now emerging because of the boom in lending and the rapid asset increases during the latter half of the 1980s.

The banks financed an excessive growth in assets during the last half of the 1980s; now they are discovering to their horror that a large part of these loans is worthless. This goes for American, British, Australian and Japanese banks.

Maxwell Newton
New York



DECISIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MANAGEMENT

95% OF INDEPENDENT VOTES*

"Managing a company with a range of businesses demands considerable resource and long-term planning. The prospect of a long-term focus for discontent if the issues in question are not settled is potentially damaging for the company. The issues should be settled decisively and unequivocally by the shareholders who are the owners of the company."

D.H. Brydon
Chairman, Institutional Shareholders' Committee
Excerpt from letter to the Financial Times 19 April 1990

At the Vickers P.L.C.'s AGM last Thursday, shareholders were asked to vote on the proposals put forward by Sir Ron Brierley's vehicle, IEP Securities Limited, to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. The resolution to demerge was defeated by a resounding vote of support for Vickers' long-term strategy.

*The votes cast against the resolution to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars as a percentage of total votes (excluding the votes on behalf of IEP Securities Limited and the Directors of Vickers).

Fort Sterling changes its fortunes with environment-friendly recycled paper

Green light for tissue maker

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

FORT Sterling was a lower rank paper-tissue producer manufacturing mainly for own labels when it launched its own "green" brand last April. But in just a few months the product had seized so much of the £600 million tissues market that a new £60 million paper machine is to be installed. It will virtually double capacity at the Lancashire base.

The UK arm of Fort Howard, the United States paper manufacturer, Fort Sterling was established about six years ago. It had a paper mill and a conversion plant that recycled paper as an economically priced feedstock.

Mr Rodney Ashford, marketing and sales director, said: "The breakthrough was in being able to produce the right grades of tissue, of comparable quality to other tissue, while using entirely recycled material. A year ago nobody else in tissues was selling recycled products so we have taken tissues down the 'green' route."

The main products are toilet tissue and kitchen rolls, which Fort Sterling sells under the Nouvelle brand. The "helps save trees" slogan pushes home the green message, Mr Ashford said. "Our timing with the green promotion turned out absolutely right because it was last spring



On a roll: Rodney Ashford, of Sterling, which will almost double its capacity by installing a £60 million paper machine

when there was most attention turned to environmentally friendly products."

With bigger competitors such as Scott Paper's Andrex and Kimberly-Clark's Kleenex moving in to the market, "green" penetration in toilet tissue is already 6.2 per cent, and 10.6 per cent in paper

towels. This compares with 5 per cent for green detergents.

After Nouvelle's April launch last year — with prices pitched 6 per cent below the leaders — Fort Sterling seized 3.4 per cent of the tissue market by the autumn. Capacity was strained, promotion was cut and the market share

changed to marginally less than 3 per cent. About £5 million went on interim production improvements but installation of the new state-of-the-art paper machine will double the impact.

Mr Ashford does not underestimate the competition from larger companies in the new

"green" tissue sector. His latest move is to bring in plastic film wrapping for Nouvelle products which is itself made partly from recycled materials.

He said: "Turnover last year was about £60 million and this year it should be approaching £80 million."

Vard cruises to London listing

By Our City Staff

VARD, the world's second largest cruise line, is preparing for a London listing in June to broaden ownership of its shares from its Oslo base and existing listing on the Norwegian stock exchange.

It is understood there are no plans by Mr Joern Egeken, managing director, for cash-raising with the listing.

Vard is worth about £350 million on the Oslo market. It now owns the Royal Cruise Line, which operates what is claimed to be the world's most luxurious cruise lines, the Royal Viking Sun.

Recent results revealed a first-quarter drop to Kr92.4 million (49.2 million) from Kr120 million. But first-quarter figures last year were inflated by unexpected profits from the Royal Viking Sun's inaugural cruise.

Analysts expect this year's

profits to exceed 1989's Kr478 million. In addition to the West Coast and Miami cruise operations, Vard runs a ferry service between Norway and Denmark. This lost Kr6 million in this first quarter, an improvement on last year's Kr14 million loss, despite the lack of snow in Norway reducing passenger numbers.



Wider horizons: Eriksson

Monarch intent on staying solo

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

DESPITE the close intentions of a number of financial "marriage brokers" who are trying to bring together rival airlines throughout Britain, Monarch Airlines — one of the most successful charter carriers — is determined to stay aloof.

After the death of its chairman and managing director Mr Alan Snadden, a number of City analysts and brokers drew up plans for the company to merge with Britannia. The project looked, at first sight, to be a perfect fit between the two main carriers operating out of Luton.

However, Mr Don Morgan, Monarch's new managing director, insists the Swiss-owned company which controls the airline has no intention of selling.

"We are perfectly happy as we are," he said. "We are

confident of making a healthy profit this year and are not seeking any merger or sale."

Monarch has a modern fleet of seven Boeing 757s, four 737-300s and has just taken delivery of two Airbus A300s to enable it to carry more passengers with the same number of slots from overcrowded Gatwick.

The company also has close links with Air France and Lufthansa in operating a service to and from Berlin where another five 757s have been attached.

Despite Monarch's declared intention of resisting the blandishments from the growing number of outside companies who see an opportunity for making mergers within the airline industry, it is certain to be approached again in the coming months.

Alternative view of ISE future

THE International Stock Exchange could overcome its profitability problems arising from low volume and excess capacity by becoming a central matching market with competing dealers, according to Mr Brian Scott-Quinn, a senior lecturer in financial markets at Reading University.

Writing in the latest *National Westminster Bank Quarterly Review*, he puts forward a proposal for reform that runs counter to the ideas of a committee of ISE members.

Mr Scott-Quinn says the key to profitability lies in lower costs and increased product differentiation and specialization.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Why pensions should stay in public domain

Nigel Lawson was ever the thinking man's Chancellor, whatever criticism has followed in the wake of his early retirement from the Cabinet last autumn. But, for all his experience of Treasury purdah, he was not always good at keeping back his cogitations about how to steer a mature economy such as Britain's into enlightened old age.

It was in a moment's weakness, while discreetly briefing the gentlemen of the fourth estate in November 1988, that he appeared to signal that the universal benefit of the state pension was about to be dismantled in support of the Government's immediate good housekeeping and underlying strategy of diminishing the role of the state. Large loomed the spectre of the means-tested pension. Concern that changes in the age structure of the population would seriously increase demands on the public purse in the decades ahead, undoing much of work of the Thatcher years, lay behind Lawson's thinking. And he was not alone in this.

The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the leading industrial nations' club, was also loudly ringing alarm bells about the threat posed by rapidly ageing populations — a threat that is undiminished.

When the dust had settled on Lawson's "revelation," the Government did indeed start to target certain groups of pensioners — the disabled and those over 75 — who had not benefited from the introduction of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps). Accordingly, they last October received an extra £2.50 a week for single people and £3.50 for married couples.

This fell far short of dismantling state pensions, but it did indicate a desire to target special cases. Given its present low rating among the electorate, it is wholly understandable that the Government is saying little about the implications of the Lawson leak. That is not to say all is forgotten.

Before his leap to high office, John Major was, after all, a diligent chief secretary at the Treasury. He has also publicly cultivated the image of a man with a strong interest in the social dimension as well as the economic. A fresh mandate for the Conservatives could well see the targeted pension concept resurface. It would certainly marry well with the vigorous and not inexpensive drive by the Treasury to popularize personal pensions and broaden the choice of private pension options. If consumers choose to pay the private sector to look after them in old age, why should the taxpayer pay a universal state pension?

In *Pensioners and the Public Purse*, published today, the Institute for Fiscal Studies scrutinizes the Government's record over the past decade and comes to some interesting conclusions about the merits of following through the Lawson logic. While the average incomes of pensioners have risen over the past decade, and look likely to continue rising as individual entitlements to Serps grow, there has been a disturbing rise in inequality.

In the 1970s, the gap between the richest and the poorest pensioners narrowed. Since 1980, it has widened again, largely because of the Government's decision to link pensions to prices and not wages. The IFS concludes that this move, which reduced the gross public spending cost by 20 per cent, has sharply increased dependence on means-tested benefits among pensioners, with far-reaching consequences for public spending.

It calculates the cost of these extra benefits would lower by 43 per cent the net cost of bringing pensions back into line with earnings growth. It would also reduce the number of pensioners on income support by almost 80 per cent.

On the key question of re-targeting the system away from universal pensions towards greater reliance on means-testing, the IFS points to the "stigma" and inconvenience of claiming benefits. This is seen as an important reason for the less than 100 per cent take-up — a sign that some needy are being missed. The state pension still appears to be well targeted on poverty, with only 24 per cent of expenditure boosting incomes above the level of means-tested benefit. The rest is used to bring pensioner incomes up to that floor.

As luck would have it, Britain's demographic picture is somewhat brighter over the coming decades than its nearest competitors'. Population ageing looks set to be much more of a problem for Japan and West Germany.

The population over 75 will, however, grow very significantly in Britain too, placing much greater demands on the health and social services budgets. Could privatization be the answer here? The IFS conclusion is a clear "no" to any major shift in the balance of private and public provision for the elderly, given the high cost risks of old age. Vouchers for health and social care are deemed problematic. This leaves only sub-contracting of service provision as a real runner.

Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

Double blow for HK economy

From Lian Yu in Hong Kong

AN UNEXPECTED big rise in the inflation rate and further falls in domestic exports have fed fears that Hong Kong's economy is entering a downward spiral.

The consumer price index, which jumped 10 per cent in March, was "disappointingly high", compared with rises of 9.8 per cent in January and 8.4 per cent in February, said Dr Alan McLean, chief economist of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

"The recent strength of the US dollar has not helped Hong Kong exports," he said.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US currency. The fall in domestic exports by HK\$16.5 billion (£1.5 billion), or 0.7 per cent in the same month, reflected tough business conditions and slower economic growth. It was the fifth consecutive month in which domestic exports fell.

Fortunately, re-exports, using Hong Kong as a transit centre, grew 16.1 per cent to HK\$30.7 billion in March, taking total exports to HK\$47.3 billion, 9.6 per cent up on the same period last year. Because imports rose

more rapidly, by HK\$2.69 billion or 5.6 per cent, a visible trade deficit of HK\$3.82 billion was recorded for March.

To make matters worse, US protectionist law threatens to take the steam out of Hong Kong's textile and garment trade, which accounts for 40 per cent of domestic exports. Proposed tariffs, quota arrangements and anti-dumping measures could deal a severe blow to manufacturers already hit by rising costs and an acute shortage of labour.

A preliminary ruling by the Commerce Department last

week found Hong Kong guilty of selling knitwear at cut-price in the US, and two exporters have been fined before a final ruling in July. If that goes against Hong Kong, it could cripple the knitwear trade, which produced sales of HK\$1.62 billion to the US last year.

Mr Eddie Lu, chairman of the Hong Kong knitwear exporters' group, said: "Hong Kong is among the world's most competitive free-trade environments and our firms must make profits, otherwise we could not survive."

Close shave averted

Another great City institution is now faced with extinction, but in a final affectionate act, its last owner has given it a 12-month reprieve to allow time to try to find a saviour. Lionel Lee, who died earlier this month while on holiday in Tel Aviv, at the age of 75, had been the proprietor of Geoffrey's, the barbers beside the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, for 26 years, and had worked there for even longer, since it opened in 1934. A widower, in his will he has left the business to relatives, but with the condition attached that they must wait a year before selling it. "The staff are all very anxious," says one regular, "because of the uncertainty."

Lee and his team used to cut between 120 and 200 City heads a day, at £10 a time — with the number of customers rising and falling in direct correlation with daily movements in the FT-SE Index. Lee's memorial service, due to be held at St Michael's Church, opposite Geoffrey's, on May 23, should bring together an impressive array of the great and the good from the Square Mile. Among his loyal clientele were past and present Bank of England Governors — Leigh-Pemberton, O'Brien, Richardson, and Cobbold — and more than 30 former Lord Mayors.

Sailing off
Archetypal jobber Tony Lewis, one-time chairman of Smith, New Court, who went into semi-retirement and be-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ginger hangs up sticks

A colourful City character, who will perhaps be best remembered for the time he turned up in drag on the floor of the Stock Exchange, on the day dealers in Miss World shares began, or for his preference for khaki shorts and an Australian-style straw hat, complete with swinging cox, on Christmas Eve, will be leaving the Square Mile today. Eric Baker, otherwise affectionately known — much against his own wishes — as "Ginger" Baker, is retiring at the age of 61. A partner with Shaw & Co, the broker, in the 1970s, he left to work for a succession of other City firms before returning to Shaw & Co two years ago. "He was one of the market floor's characters, a very witty man and always helpful," one of his old friends recalled.

Water Gipsy — precedes the arrival, tomorrow, of corporate financier extraordinaire Michael Richardson, 62. Richardson, a one-time partner of Cazenove, and a personal friend and frequent adviser to Mrs Thatcher, will be giving up his position as head of corporate finance at N M Rothschild — which owns a fully diluted 35 per cent of SNC — to join the firm. Although he will be non-executive chairman, he is expected to put in four days a week. Richardson revitalized Rothschild's corporate finance department. Word is he will do the same at SNC.

● Smith New Court has trebled the size of its brewery team in one fell swoop. It has recruited John Walters, a specialist salesman, and Mark Pollard, an analyst, from Laurence Prust. They will work with Smith's existing brewing analyst, Mike McCarthy, who heads the team.

Wallace collection

Graham Wallace, former head of corporate communications at James Capel — which has lost more than its fair share of staff in recent weeks, including five European warrant traders who have gone to BZW — also left on Friday. Wallace, who had been with Capel three years, starts his own company with offices in the City today. Called The Art of the Matter, it will, he says, "be a consultancy in corporate and brand positioning. If you are a corporate or brand entity you have a certain character and image. I will produce a study to show if your marketing programme matches that character or image." Wallace, aged 41, has effectively been replaced by Marjorie Stummel.

He no meany

Attacked with catcalls and cries of "insider" when he won the first prize in a raffle at his firm's Christmas Party last week — airline tickets worth £1,000, donated by Air Tours — Richard Meany, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, did the honourable thing and offered them for auction. His generosity helped raise a total of £3,000 for Remedy — the Rehabilitation and Medical Research Trust — of which his boss, Brian Winterflood is vice-president. The eventual bidder, paying £1,200, was Martin Burton, who will have plenty of time to use them. He was head of derivatives at Cjicorp Scrimgeour Vickers and is still "resting" at home after the firm quit UK equities at the turn of the year.

Carol Leonard

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Trump plays the king of cash in a high-risk game

As doubts are voiced about the true extent of the Trump fortune, John Durie examines the evidence

Mr Donald Trump, the ubiquitous New York property developer, says he wants to raise cash for his empire, but just why he is making the move has caused uproar on Wall Street.

Some say Mr Trump's empire is not what it was. *Forbes Magazine* will today publish a revised version of his wealth which shows it falling from \$1.7 billion last year to \$500 million this year. It says his debts total \$3.2 billion and his assets \$3.7 billion.

Mr Trump rejected these figures. He told *The Times*: "The facts are quite plain. I have \$400 million sitting in the bank and had a net cash flow of \$157 million last year, and will have a net cash flow of \$171 million this year."

"I just believe property is heading downwards and I want to be king of cash because I believe in doing so I will be offered some very good deals."

Mr Trump launched his empire in 1975 by taking advantage of the near-bankrupt state of the City of New York. Now, the 43-year-old empire stretches from Atlantic City casinos and New York property, including the Plaza Hotel, to the airline shuttle running between New York, Washington and Boston, named Trump Shuttle.

Mr Trump says he wants to sell the shuttle, which he bought last year from the financially-troubled Mr Frank Lorenzo for \$365 million.

In deals worth \$290 million he is also refinancing two Manhattan properties, his 50 per cent stake in the Grand Hyatt Hotel and Trump Tower, his Fifth Avenue retail and apartment building.

Mr Trump encourages publicity, trading his name like others do with their brand names by courting sporting heroes like Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, and doing interviews in magazines ranging from *Fortune* to *Playboy*.

Attention has focused on the split between "The Donald", as he is known in the New York tabloids, and wife



Donald Trump: "business is better than ever"

Ivana, after his affair with Donna Maples, whose only claim to fame was once coming second in a Georgia beauty contest.

Mr Trump confided to *The Times*: "Look, I hate to say anything about divorce is positive, but the fact is that business is better now than it ever was." The son of a multi-millionaire New York property developer, Mr Trump started out by collecting rents from his father's tenants in Queens and Brooklyn.

A graduate of Wharton Business School - which includes among its alumni Mr Michael Milken, the securities dealer convicted of fraud - Mr Trump, at the age of 28, used hefty tax breaks to buy the Commodore Hotel above New York's Grand Central Railway Station in 1975. This is now The Grand Hyatt hotel.

He also invested early in Atlantic City, spending \$1 million buying land, before gambling was allowed there in 1976. By the early 1980s, when no one wanted to go near Atlantic City, he had \$22 million invested in its future.

He now has more than \$2 billion invested in the city, which attracts revenue of \$3 billion a year as a gambling centre. His latest \$1 billion venture, the Taj Mahal casino, is financed almost entirely by municipal bond notes requiring \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million a day to break even.

Mr Trump's assets are privately owned, with any debt applied strictly to each asset

Property crisis signalled in US

THE United States has 500 million sq ft of office space vacant and awaiting buyers, equal to the combined size of the entire commercial office space of New York and Detroit (John Durie writes).

Once present projects are completed, even if no further buildings were erected for eight years, the market would still have plenty of supply.

Mr William Saidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said recently that US bank assets had grown by 12 per cent since 1986, but real estate loans had grown by 48 per cent and non-performing real estate loans by 54 per cent.

To make matters worse, Mr Saidman, as caretaker for the failed savings and loans industry (thrifts), had, at the end of last year, \$200 billion of real estate to sell by 1996.

Three facts lie behind a growing real estate crisis in the US. A market with chronic over-supply, combined with the Government tightening controls on thrifts, has choked the supply of new real estate loans at a time when commercial banks are starting to tighten lending.

The Resolution Trust Corporation, which is empowered to sell the thrift assets, is not allowed to sell into depressed markets at less than 95 per cent of appraised market values. Only last week, it considered plans to cut the appraised value of its entire real estate inventory by 15 per cent, which would force real estate prices down.

With commercial real estate over-capacity running at more than 20 per cent, the US Federal Reserve is also under market pressure to increase interest rates, which would further dampen the market.

Despite these warning signs, Miss Susan Hering, a Salomon Bros property analyst, told *The Times* that there was little sign yet of commercial banks slowing real estate lending.

In a recent report, Salomon Bros said in the five years to last December, real estate's share of outstanding loans rose from 25 to 37 per cent and its share of new loans amounted to 64 per cent.

Citicorp's chairman, Mr John Reed, recently said that he expected to increase provisions further against non-performing real estate loans after adding \$800 million to its real estate provisions last year.

Although banking's taste for real estate loans was initially centred in regional banks, others followed in lending fashion. Bankwatch, the bank analyst group, noted that continental banks had the fifth-largest rise in real estate loans among US banks, with real estate loans up by 33.9 per cent last year.

Initial problems have centred on regional banks, evidenced by the sale by the Bank of New England of a third of its assets.

It may be too early to say that the US real estate market is in crisis, but all signs point in that direction.

Market's weather eye focuses on ICI

TODAY

THE market eagerly awaits news from Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest chemicals company, which is chaired by Sir Denis Henderson, and which is still seen by many as a barometer for British stocks.

The company will be affected by the weakness in the British and US economies, with these markets accounting for about 45 per cent of sales.

Bulk chemicals' profits are forecast to be down heavily following a cyclical drop. However, this will be partly offset by good performance from pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and explosives.

First quarter pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £442 million to £345 million by Mr Ian John at County NatWest WoodMac. This is at the lower end of market forecasts which range from £340 million to £380 million.

National Home Loans, the mortgage lender, will be affected by the difficulties in the housing market, although it should reap the benefits of diversification into other areas of financial services. BZW expects interim pre-tax profits to climb from £13.4 million to £14.5 million.

Moss Bros Group, the menswear retail and hire group, gave a warning of difficult conditions late last year. However, Mr Wilfred Case, the chairman, thought the group was being affected less than competitors.

Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range from £2.6 million to £3.5 million for the full year, compared with £2.9 million.

Second-half profits at Toatal, the textiles group where Coats Vyeella has a 29.9 per cent stake, are likely to fall sharply. UBS Phillips & Drew sees pre-tax profits of £36 million for the full year, compared with £42.3 million, with forecasts ranging from £35 million to £39 million.

Interim: Anglo-Park Group, Barbican Holdings, Imperial Chemical Industries (first quarter), Lowland Investment Co, National Home Loans Holdings, Rentaminster, Finsale, ASB Barnett Kinnings, Barlow, Blackland Oil Commercial Bank of the West East, Folkestone Group, Futura Holdings, Innerspace Group, Lilley, Moss Bros Group, Optim Group, Riva Group, Spong Holdings, S&U Stores, Tootal

News is also awaited on the company's gearing, which was 159 per cent at the end of September, although it has made disposals totalling about £200 million. Some analysts



Henderson: bulk setback



Shaw: progress in US

Group, Video Store Group, Wansam Company, Economic statistics: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (first quarter), UK new vehicle registrations (March).

Interim: Kwik Save Group, Multi-trust, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Tate & Lyle, Finsale, BLP Group, Europe Minerals, Spear (NW) & Sons, Economic statistics: UK official reserves (April), monetary statistics (March), sterling commercial paper (March), UK advances and overdrafts (March), overseas travel and tourism (January/February), detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

Interim: Ashley Group, Drayton Asia Trust, Finalist Apollo Winton Products, BDA Holdings, Seattle (James), Cargo Control, Conrad Continental, London & Overseas Freighters, Economic statistics: CBI industrial trends survey (April).

US refining and sweetener profits should have shown steady progress at Tate & Lyle, the sugar producer and sweeteners group headed by Mr Neil Shaw, offsetting the flat profit profile in Europe.

The company will benefit from a full six-month contribution from Amstar, the North American cane sugar refining business.

Further news is awaited on the company's interest in a merger with its troubled rival, Berisford International, the commodities and property trader which owns British Sugar.

News is also awaited on the company's gearing, which was 159 per cent at the end of September, although it has made disposals totalling about £200 million. Some analysts

think it can reduce gearing to under 90 per cent by its year-end.

Smith New Court forecasts interim pre-tax profits of £85 million, against £70 million, with market forecasts ranging from £79 million to £85 million.

Kwik Save Group, the supermarket chain strong in the North of England, should continue to see the benefits of high volume growth.

Mr Simon Raggatt at Williams de Broe is expecting interim pre-tax profits to climb by 16 per cent to £41 million on sales estimated to be ahead by 24 per cent to £725 million.

Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Scotland's largest clearing bank, confirmed that it had a £751 million exposure to leveraged buyouts at the beginning of the year. Smith New Court recently downgraded its forecast to £143 million for the half-year, compared with £171 million last time.

This figure - at the bottom end of market forecasts which rise to £170 million - includes a £70 million provision, partly linked to the LBO exposure.

Interim: Kwik Save Group, Multi-trust, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Tate & Lyle, Finsale, BLP Group, Europe Minerals, Spear (NW) & Sons, Economic statistics: UK official reserves (April), monetary statistics (March), sterling commercial paper (March), UK advances and overdrafts (March), overseas travel and tourism (January/February), detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, should see a solid earnings increase. BZW expects pre-tax profits of £165 million, compared with £128.2 million, with forecasts ranging from £155 million to £165 million.

Interim: Bellway, Euromoney Publications, Glasgow Income Trust, Leeds Group, PWS Holdings, Philip Lamps Holding (first quarter), Wellcome, Finsale, Davies & Newman Holdings, Propeller, Fashions Brothers.

Interim: Cronis Group, Guinness Mithon Holdings, Finsale, BMSS, Boot (Henry) and Sons, Delyn Packaging, Worth Investment Trust.

Philip Pangalos

Decision day in leisure bid

By Michael Tate

TODAY Mr Michael Ward, European Leisure chairman, will have to decide whether or not to extend the controversial £77 million takeover bid for Midsummer Leisure.

The offer, currently worth about 146p a share, has already been declared final. Mr Adam Page, Midsummer chairman, his fellow directors and a few of their associates have set their faces against the deal.

They committed their 19.8 per cent total holdings to European at the outset - indeed they suggested the merger - but subsequently, and unprecedentedly, changed

their minds. They are now advising shareholders to reject the offer that they are bound to accept.

Mr Page has indicated that it was pressure from his big shareholders that forced the volte-face, and clearly there are a couple of institutional shareholders whose votes Mr Ward should not rely on.

But leisure analysts are increasingly coming down in favour of the deal, which offers an exit p/e of 10.9, a substantial premium to other leisure companies with high gearing problems.

Midsummer's gearing is 106 per cent, and would drop to 68

per cent if the merger goes through.

Mr Paul Heath at Henderson Crosthwaite says the commercial logic for the merger is "unassailable" and points out that shareholders in an independent Midsummer face "an uncomfortable year or two of rising tax charges and minimal earnings progress at best."

The company's balance sheet, even after selective disposals, would not support reinvestment for longer-term growth, he says.

Midsummer's share price has slumped to 107p - well below the bid value.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 157TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIERS HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, SE1 9DD, ON WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 1990, at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

- To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1989 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To re-elect as Directors of the Office the following Directors, who retire by rotation:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding
Michael Melluish
Leo Tutt
John Whitney
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,
B. W. SWEETLAND, Secretary,
30th April 1990

NOTES

- A member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.
- To be valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.
- Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.
- Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.
- Only members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not members. If a policyholder who is not also a member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.
- Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.
- Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

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|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| £1,000 - £24,999 | 9.75 | 13.00 | 12.50 |
| £25,000 - £99,999 | 10.00 | 13.33 | 13.25 |
| £100,000 - £249,999 | 10.15 | 13.53 | 13.50 |
| £250,000 - £1m | 10.25 | 13.67 | 13.625 |

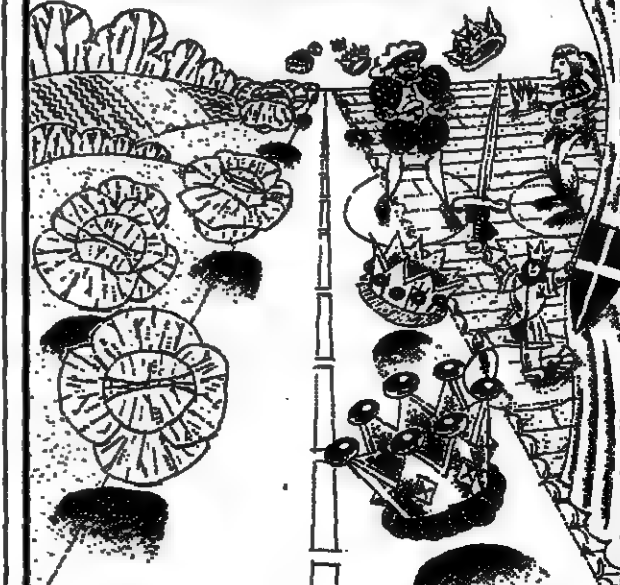
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BRUSSELS

EC halts drive for uniform tax rate

ATTEMPTS to set up a single tax regime for companies in European Community countries have suffered a series of blows, leaving little chance of establishing a workable common system in time for the single market in 1993.

The European Commission has shelved indefinitely its plans to set a uniform corporate tax rate, and has expressed its "deep disappointment" that ministers have still not managed to agree basic measures to cut the risk of over-taxation on subsidiaries paying dividends to parent companies abroad.

Brussels believes that the risk of double taxation seriously dampens enthusiasm for cross-border mergers, and is threatening to push EC heads of government to endorse its company tax proposals when they meet again in Dublin on June 25.

In addition, M Jacques Delors, president of the commission, has said that he would not advocate abolishing each EC country's veto over tax negotiations, even though he recently likened the commission's efforts to harmonize VAT rates to Sisyphus hauling boulders up a hill only to see them tumble down the other side.

SIR Leon Brittan, the European commissioner, has said that Britain risks being "left behind, beside the road" unless its businessmen and politicians gear themselves up to tackling new markets in Eastern Europe, especially East Germany. British companies should be queuing to take over, or sign joint ventures with, East German firms, he said in a speech in Manchester on Friday, in order "to prevent the creation of major monopolistic concerns in the German market", dominated by West German industry. The shaky economy of the German Democratic Republic will soon be locked into the solid currency, the tax regime and the legal framework of Britain's biggest trading partner, the German Federal Republic, he said.

BRUSSELS has new plans up its sleeve that would force all EC governments to allow advertisements to mention, and presumably talk down, competing brands. "The principle is that comparative advertising should be possible throughout the Community," said Mr Karel Van Miert, EC consumer affairs commissioner, adding that specific proposals would be unveiled later this year. The practice is currently banned in almost all EC countries.

AMERICAN and European firms trying to tap the lucrative market in biotechnology will soon be encouraged to avoid expensive overlaps in research, especially in the earlier stages, by co-ordinating it within a joint EC/US task force. Agreement on the joint body will come "fairly soon", according to Signor Filippo Maria Pandolfi, EC research commissioner, who met his US counterpart in Washington recently.

THE Commission wants to increase the chances of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) winning major government contracts abroad as it opens up protected national procurement markets to competitive bidding from other EC countries. Recognizing that SMEs are often left on the sidelines of a market dominated by bigger players, the commission has approved a memorandum outlining plans to encourage them to bid jointly for major contracts throughout the EC. This is crucial because new EC rules deregulating public purchasing cover only the biggest contracts, leaving smaller ones still exposed to national favouritism. SMEs will enjoy legal and fiscal incentives, simplified award procedures and the strong arm of EC law to ensure that contractors pay their fees on time.

Peter Guilford
Brussels

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

THE number of new issues on the USM during 1989 was the lowest for four years according to a survey of all Stock Exchange flotations carried out jointly by Price Waterhouse, the chartered accountant, and Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker.

"The number of companies admitted to the Full List, USM and Third Market in 1989 was 205 — some 23 per cent lower than 1988, with the USM recording the lowest number of entrants for four years," said Mr Christopher Wilkinson, of Panmure Gordon.

Flotation nevertheless remains a good source of finance for businesses. The survey shows that about £3.7 billion was raised by way of flotation during 1989, excluding privatization issues. And the capitalization of many of those companies which did go ahead with flotations has increased.

Mr. Wilkinson said: "Despite the uncertainty in the markets, almost half of new entrants managed to achieve the all-important objective of increasing their market capitalization by the end of the year."

But the survey confirms that because of those uncertain market conditions price/earnings ratios have been declining, with average flotation p/e's in the second half of 1989 significantly lower than in the previous six months. And on both the USM and the main stock market, the average p/e figure for the whole of 1989 is significantly lower than the 1988 figure.

An analysis of the cost of a flotation

A RETURN to the black by Global Group signalled that the first step in the group's transformation by the new management team, headed by Mr Michael Shafran, the former Henderson Crosthwaite stockbroker, has been successful.

Preliminary figures for the seven months to December 31 showed pre-tax profits of £519,000 compared with a loss for the year to May 31, 1989 of £2.6 million. The change in the group's year followed the reverse takeover of EIC, the shipping services group, last November in a deal worth almost £15 million.

Earnings per share were 1.2p compared with a loss of 38.45 last time round. Interest payments were slashed from £837,000 to £203,000. Once again, there was no dividend but the group is hoping to recommend one this year.

Mr Shafran and his management team moved into Global in June. He says: "The rationalization and restructuring of the old Global Group has now been completed. Subsidiaries which were los-

reveals that the average sum a company pays for a placing is £659,000 for a full listing, £288,000 for a USM listing and £197,000 for a Third Market quote. A breakdown of the percentage of the amount being raised that those costs represent shows they are, respectively, 4.8 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 9 per cent.

"The costs of flotation varied considerably and for the smaller companies represented a significant proportion of the amount raised on flotation, reflecting the substantial element of largely fixed costs incurred, whichever market is used," the report concludes.

The survey welcomes plans by the Stock Exchange to relax the advertising requirements for offers for sale or subscription methods of flotation, which cause the costs to soar even higher. The average cost of an offer for sale on the main market is £2.74 million.

"The costs of flotation should not become a barrier of entry to the markets, particularly for the small and medium-sized issues," the survey says.

Figures to illustrate the performance of companies on their respective markets are particularly encouraging for USM newcomers. "For those companies floated in the first half of 1989 on the Full List, 13 per cent outperformed the FT-All Share Index in the second six months, whereas some 65 per cent of those floated on the USM outperformed the USM index over the same period," the survey says.

Carol Leonard

Global outlook

Global is left with just three of the original food businesses — all of which made useful contributions to profits. And Mr Shafran says he has no plans to dispose of them.

The balance sheet is also looking healthier after the sale of some property for £750,000 and the group is planning to sell more. Total debt is about £2 million but this includes a £1.25 million long-term loan.

Mr Shafren says he is very encouraged by the group's performance in the first three months and, in the longer-term, expects EIC to benefit from the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme and the European single market in 1992. Season Gregory, the broker, is already forecasting pre-tax profits of £5.4 million for the current year, boosted by a first-time contribution from EIC.

Michael Clark

Carol Leonard

Michael Clark

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 Old Sovereign: \$387.50-\$85.50 (\$233.50-\$25.00)
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| 178.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 38.5 | 30.0 | 2.5 |
| 179.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 39.0 | 30.5 | 2.5 |
| 179.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 39.5 | 31.0 | 2.5 |
| 180.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 40.0 | 31.5 | 2.5 |
| 180.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 40.5 | 32.0 | 2.5 |
| 181.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 41.0 | 32.5 | 2.5 |
| 181.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 41.5 | 33.0 | 2.5 |
| 182.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 42.0 | 33.5 | 2.5 |
| 182.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 42.5 | 34.0 | 2.5 |
| 183.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 43.0 | 34.5 | 2.5 |
| 183.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 43.5 | 35.0 | 2.5 |
| 184.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 44.0 | 35.5 | 2.5 |
| 184.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 44.5 | 36.0 | 2.5 |
| 185.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 45.0 | 36.5 | 2.5 |
| 185.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 45.5 | 37.0 | 2.5 |
| 186.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 46.0 | 37.5 | 2.5 |
| 186.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 46.5 | 38.0 | 2.5 |
| 187.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 47.0 | 38.5 | 2.5 |
| 187.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 47.5 | 39.0 | 2.5 |
| 188.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 48.0 | 39.5 | 2.5 |
| 188.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 48.5 | 40.0 | 2.5 |
| 189.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 49.0 | 40.5 | 2.5 |
| 189.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 49.5 | 41.0 | 2.5 |
| 190.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 50.0 | 41.5 | 2.5 |
| 190.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 50.5 | 42.0 | 2.5 |
| 191.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 51.0 | 42.5 | 2.5 |
| 191.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 51.5 | 43.0 | 2.5 |
| 192.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 52.0 | 43.5 | 2.5 |
| 192.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 52.5 | 44.0 | 2.5 |
| 193.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 53.0 | 44.5 | 2.5 |
| 193.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 53.5 | 45.0 | 2.5 |
| 194.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 54.0 | 45.5 | 2.5 |
| 194.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 54.5 | 46.0 | 2.5 |
| 195.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 55.0 | 46.5 | 2.5 |
| 195.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 55.5 | 47.0 | 2.5 |
| 196.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 56.0 | 47.5 | 2.5 |
| 196.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 56.5 | 48.0 | 2.5 |
| 197.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 57.0 | 48.5 | 2.5 |
| 197.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 57.5 | 49.0 | 2.5 |
| 198.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 58.0 | 49.5 | 2.5 |
| 198.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 58.5 | 50.0 | 2.5 |
| 199.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 59.0 | 50.5 | 2.5 |
| 199.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 59.5 | 51.0 | 2.5 |
| 200.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 60.0 | 51.5 | 2.5 |
| 200.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 60.5 | 52.0 | 2.5 |
| 201.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 61.0 | 52.5 | 2.5 |
| 201.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 61.5 | 53.0 | 2.5 |
| 202.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 62.0 | 53.5 | 2.5 |
| 202.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 62.5 | 54.0 | 2.5 |
| 203.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 63.0 | 54.5 | 2.5 |
| 203.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 63.5 | 55.0 | 2.5 |
| 204.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 64.0 | 55.5 | 2.5 |
| 204.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 64.5 | 56.0 | 2.5 |
| 205.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 65.0 | 56.5 | 2.5 |
| 205.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 65.5 | 57.0 | 2.5 |
| 206.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 66.0 | 57.5 | 2.5 |
| 206.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 66.5 | 58.0 | 2.5 |
| 207.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 67.0 | 58.5 | 2.5 |
| 207.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 67.5 | 59.0 | 2.5 |
| 208.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 68.0 | 59.5 | 2.5 |
| 208.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 68.5 | 60.0 | 2.5 |
| 209.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 69.0 | 60.5 | 2.5 |
| 209.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 69.5 | 61.0 | 2.5 |
| 210.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 70.0 | 61.5 | 2.5 |
| 210.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 70.5 | 62.0 | 2.5 |
| 211.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 71.0 | 62.5 | 2.5 |
| 211.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 71.5 | 63.0 | 2.5 |
| 212.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 72.0 | 63.5 | 2.5 |
| 212.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 72.5 | 64.0 | 2.5 |
| 213.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 73.0 | 64.5 | 2.5 |
| 213.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 73.5 | 65.0 | 2.5 |
| 214.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 74.0 | 65.5 | 2.5 |
| 214.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 74.5 | 66.0 | 2.5 |
| 215.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 75.0 | 66.5 | 2.5 |
| 215.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 75.5 | 67.0 | 2.5 |
| 216.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 76.0 | 67.5 | 2.5 |
| 216.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 76.5 | 68.0 | 2.5 |
| 217.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 77.0 | 68.5 | 2.5 |
| 217.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 77.5 | 69.0 | 2.5 |
| 218.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 78.0 | 69.5 | 2.5 |
| 218.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 78.5 | 70.0 | 2.5 |
| 219.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 79.0 | 70.5 | 2.5 |
| 219.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 79.5 | 71.0 | 2.5 |
| 220.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 80.0 | 71.5 | 2.5 |
| 220.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 80.5 | 72.0 | 2.5 |
| 221.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 81.0 | 72.5 | 2.5 |
| 221.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 81.5 | 73.0 | 2.5 |
| 222.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 82.0 | 73.5 | 2.5 |
| 222.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 82.5 | 74.0 | 2.5 |
| 223.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 83.0 | 74.5 | 2.5 |
| 223.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 83.5 | 75.0 | 2.5 |
| 224.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 84.0 | 75.5 | 2.5 |
| 224.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 84.5 | 76.0 | 2.5 |
| 225.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 85.0 | 76.5 | 2.5 |
| 225.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 85.5 | 77.0 | 2.5 |
| 226.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 86.0 | 77.5 | 2.5 |
| 226.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 86.5 | 78.0 | 2.5 |
| 227.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 87.0 | 78.5 | 2.5 |
| 227.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 87.5 | 79.0 | 2.5 |
| 228.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 88.0 | 79.5 | 2.5 |
| 228.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 88.5 | 80.0 | 2.5 |
| 229.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 89.0 | 80.5 | 2.5 |
| 229.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 89.5 | 81.0 | 2.5 |
| 230.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 90.0 | 81.5 | 2.5 |
| 230.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 90.5 | 82.0 | 2.5 |
| 231.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 91.0 | 82.5 | 2.5 |
| 231.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 91.5 | 83.0 | 2.5 |
| 232.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 92.0 | 83.5 | 2.5 |
| 232.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 92.5 | 84.0 | 2.5 |
| 233.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 93.0 | 84.5 | 2.5 |
| 233.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 93.5 | 85.0 | 2.5 |
| 234.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 94.0 | 85.5 | 2.5 |
| 234.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 94.5 | 86.0 | 2.5 |
| 235.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 95.0 | 86.5 | 2.5 |
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| 236.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 96.0 | 87.5 | 2.5 |
| 236.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 96.5 | 88.0 | 2.5 |
| 237.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 97.0 | 88.5 | 2.5 |
| 237.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 97.5 | 89.0 | 2.5 |
| 238.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 98.0 | 89.5 | 2.5 |
| 238.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 98.5 | 90.0 | 2.5 |
| 239.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 99.0 | 90.5 | 2.5 |
| 239.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 99.5 | 91.0 | 2.5 |
| 240.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 100.0 | 91.5 | 2.5 |
| 240.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 100.5 | 92.0 | 2.5 |
| 241.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 101.0 | 92.5 | 2.5 |
| 241.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 101.5 | 93.0 | 2.5 |
| 242.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 102.0 | 93.5 | 2.5 |
| 242.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 102.5 | 94.0 | 2.5 |
| 243.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 103.0 | 94.5 | 2.5 |
| 243.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 103.5 | 95.0 | 2.5 |
| 244.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 104.0 | 95.5 | 2.5 |
| 244.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 104.5 | 96.0 | 2.5 |
| 245.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 105.0 | 96.5 | 2.5 |
| 245.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 105.5 | 97.0 | 2.5 |
| 246.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 106.0 | 97.5 | 2.5 |
| 246.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 106.5 | 98.0 | 2.5 |
| 247.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 107.0 | 98.5 | 2.5 |
| 247.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 107.5 | 99.0 | 2.5 |
| 248.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 108.0 | 99.5 | 2.5 |
| 248.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 108.5 | 100.0 | 2.5 |
| 249.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 109.0 | 100.5 | 2.5 |
| 249.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 109.5 | 101.0 | 2.5 |
| 250.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 110.0 | 101.5 | 2.5 |
| 250.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 110.5 | 102.0 | 2.5 |
| 251.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 111.0 | 102.5 | 2.5 |
| 251.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 111.5 | 103.0 | 2.5 |
| 252.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 112.0 | 103.5 | 2.5 |
| 252.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 112.5 | 104.0 | 2.5 |
| 253.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 113.0 | 104.5 | 2.5 |
| 253.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 113.5 | 105.0 | 2.5 |
| 254.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 114.0 | 105.5 | 2.5 |
| 254.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 114.5 | 106.0 | 2.5 |
| 255.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 115.0 | 106.5 | 2.5 |
| 255.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 115.5 | 107.0 | 2.5 |
| 256.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 116.0 | 107.5 | 2.5 |
| 256.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 116.5 | 108.0 | 2.5 |
| 257.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 117.0 | 108.5 | 2.5 |
| 257.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 117.5 | 109.0 | 2.5 |
| 258.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 118.0 | 109.5 | 2.5 |
| 258.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 118.5 | 110.0 | 2.5 |
| 259.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 119.0 | 110.5 | 2.5 |
| 259.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 119.5 | 111.0 | 2.5 |
| 260.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 120.0 | 111.5 | 2.5 |
| 260.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 120.5 | 112.0 | 2.5 |
| 261.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 121.0 | 112.5 | 2.5 |
| 261.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 121.5 | 113.0 | 2.5 |
| 262.00 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 122.0 | 113.5 | 2.5 |
| 262.50 | Black Water | 340 | -5 | 122.5 | 114.0 | 2.5 |

Liverpool triumph but the champagne is flatter this year

all This was McGrath's first go

By Peter Ball

By Peter Ball

WHEN it was first called, Tuesday's Football League extraordinary general meeting promised to be a fairly smoozy affair. But being football, it now seems likely there will be yet another row.

The cause, inevitably, is money, and in particular, the long-running saga over the distribution of ITV money. It is a repeat of last year's disagreement with the same players making the same noises.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has once again stirred things up by proposing that the large facility fees of £145,000 to the home club and £45,000 to the visiting club should be reduced by a fee to each club of £20,000, with the balance being shared between all first division clubs.

In spite of their status as a leading club with a relatively successful season, Chelsea have only had one live appearance, the away match at Sheffield Wednesday, which brought them £20,000.

The reactions have been equally predictable. Tottenham Hotspur, just like last year, have sent a solicitor's letter threatening legal action if there is any

action of money, contending that that is an integral part of the four-year, £48 million ITV agreement, which still has two years to run.

ITV has let it be known that it is not open to the concept, if it is to agree the big clubs are to upset the other big clubs have struck defiant poses.

In the end, after a lot of blather and puff, things will probably stay as they are. At another time Chelsea's other proposal, for a return to a 22-club first division would have of much greater significance.

But with a new chief, executive, Arthur Sanfford, still defining his way into the job the time is hardly ripe, particularly with the contradictory messages being received about a return to Football League and clubs negate any desire by Liverpool for an increase in size.

As things stand, Reg Burd, of Millwall, will lose his place as a first division representative since his club has been relegated, while Gordon McGick, of Newcastle United, and club president, Bill Fox, or Larry Stott would be under threat to their respective clubs, Blackpool Rovers and Oldham Athletic.

attempt to change the dissemi-
 nated were promoted.

[illegible]

The battle intensifies for promotion from the second division

Optimistic Bassett unmoved by the early celebrations

By Ian Ross

Sheffield United 2
Bournemouth 0

WHILE Dave Bassett, the manager of Sheffield United, remains optimistic about his club's chances of reclaiming the first division place it surrendered 14 years ago, he was clearly in no mood to join in the premature celebrations which accompanied the final whistle at Bramall Lane on Saturday.

United, who 12 months ago were playing in the third division, will secure one of two automatic promotion places if they win either of their remaining fixtures, against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park tomorrow night, or Leicester City, at Filbert Street on Saturday.

After an impressive win, the United players embarked on a deserved lap of honour but despite the repeated and prolonged chanting of his name by an appreciative audience, Bassett declined all invitations to leave the sanctuaries of the dressing-room.

"We have not achieved anything yet but I will acknowledge our supporters after our last game. I was not snubbing anybody. Sometimes managers get too many plaudits when things are going well and too much flak when things are going badly," he said.

Bassett admitted that the task of restoring United's pride has proved to be a good deal more demanding than he expected, but he was clearly in no mood to be deterred by the early celebrations which accompanied the final whistle at Bramall Lane on Saturday.

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Veterans guiding Newcastle to the top

Louise Taylor reviews the second division

THE Newcastle United team sheet may be filled by players approaching their sell-by date, but the collective experience of the club's veterans is what counts.

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King of happiness: Pat Cash, of Australia, is congratulated by Emily Benoit, his fiancée, after beating Andre Agassi, of Austria, 6-3, 6-4 to win the Hong Kong Open

Chesnokov cashes in on title

From Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent, Monte Carlo

NOT often does the Russian national anthem get an airing in Monte Carlo, that monument to Western capitalism, but it did yesterday in honour of Andre Chesnokov's three-set victory in the final of the Monte Carlo Open. The No. 12 seed beat Thomas Muster 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 in two hours and 40 minutes to win the \$125,000 (about £78,000) first prize, the biggest of his career.

Appropriately enough, Chesnokov will also be able to keep all his winnings - he usually has to give a cut to the Soviet sporting authorities.

"But money is not the main thing," he said. "If you would like me to win the money, I would take the title. I am just very, very happy." Happy, and, delicious, exhausted, ecstatic. It's hard to tell with Chesnokov, "You just can't tell with him," Muster said. "His face always says the same way. You look for signs in a player's body language. Is he tired? Is he afraid? But there is no reaction, no body language, and that's hard."

From Muster, that is quite a compliment. The Austrian is renowned for his commitment and his toughness. He plays every point as if it is his last, every match as if it is his last, and that's hard.

Yan, after a first set lasting an hour and 10 minutes, it was Muster who broke. He was never able to break up the

played an outstanding match to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 against Martin Stangor, of Argentina.

RESULTS: Monte Carlo Open (Austrian) to H. Muster (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Chesnokov (RUS) to T. Muster (AUS) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3; Chesnokov (RUS) to T. Muster (AUS) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3; Chesnokov (RUS) to T. Muster (AUS) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

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BASKETBALL

Baker wins while his colleagues crumble

By Nicholas Harding

RONNIE Baker was voted man of the match for England on Saturday while his Brixton colleagues were participating in a match of such confusion and controversy that there is almost certain to be repercussions.

Brixton protested against playing the second leg of their national league first division play-off final at Oldham Athletic without their two England internationals, Baker and Andrew Bailey. They eventually played and lost, even after Bailey had been released by England.

The London club, which had threatened not to turn up at all, arrived in time but took so long to register a first-half goal that the game started 20 minutes late. However, they still refused to recognize it as the play-off final.

Understand, Oldham were determined to make up the 21-point deficit from the first leg and won 103-79 for a 20-19 aggregate success.

"The last thing we wanted was to have a hollow victory," Pat O'Donnell, the Oldham chairman, said. "We would have won the game 2-0 by default anyway but, if that had happened, I doubt I could have put the trophy on display in my cabinet. We have no sympathy for Brixton."

The English Basketball Association has since decided that the result will stand, and Oldham are the play-off champions.

Meanwhile, Baker's 14 points, including three three-pointers, were helping England to a convincing 104-88 victory over Iceland at Worthing. England gave a far more impressive display than they had the previous night at Blackwell, where their winning margin was only two points.

England increased their interval advantage of 52-43 to 81-63 in a purple patch during the second half, when they scored 12 points without reply.

SCORES: England 104, Iceland 88; Scotland 15, Norway 11.

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Bennett keeps Bull at bay

By Vince Wright

Wolves 0
Sunderland 1

AT THE end of a tense and evenly fought game at Molineux on Saturday, Sunderland were almost assured of a place in the play-offs and Wolverhampton Wanderers were virtually resigned to another year in the second division. Wolves, who have to win both their remaining matches, at Oldham on Thursday and West Ham on Saturday, to have any chance of escaping the relegation trap.

Meanwhile, the mouth-watering prospect of a clash between Sunderland and their bitter north-east rivals, Newcastle United, in the play-off semi-finals, looked better equipped for a higher grade team. Wolves, who were second best throughout the warm afternoon.

The Midlands rely too much on Bull to produce results, and the Sunderland manager, Ian Holloway, was less than convincing as he led his team to a 1-0 victory.

Southern joins Rangers in parade

By Ruddy Forsyth

Rangers 2
Sunderland 0

RANGERS celebrated their third Scottish league title in four years by securing the championship trophy after a 2-0 victory over Dundee in the final on Saturday. Dundee manager, Ian McEwan, congratulated his players on their achievement.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, said: "It's a fantastic achievement for the team and the fans. We have worked hard all season and it has paid off."

The Dundee manager, Ian McEwan, said: "We played well but we were out of sync. Rangers were too strong for us today."

- RACING 36, 37
- RUGBY UNION 38
- CRICKET 39

SPORT

Superb Hendry within sight of title



Hendry: in outstanding form

By Steve Acteson

STEPHEN Hendry, of Scotland, was within striking range of becoming the youngest ever winner of the Embassy world snooker championship last night. Hendry led Jimmy White 14-10, and needed only four more to claim the title and the winner's cheque for £120,000.

Hendry had played some of the best snooker ever witnessed at the Crucible in Sheffield over the two sessions on Saturday and at the start of the third session yesterday.

Hendry, the third seed, had already supplanted Davis as world No. 1 in the rankings for 1990-91: he had won five titles this season before reaching the world final for the first time. Aged 21 years and four months, he was hoping to supercede Alex Higgins as the

youngest winner by 19 months.

Hendry took the first session on Saturday by 4-3, White winning the last frame with a run of 82. White, the No. 4 seed, aged 27, then recovered from 64-8 behind to win the ninth frame on Saturday night with a clearance of 67, and he captured the thirteenth from 52-1 behind with a further clearance of 62.

White added the next to stand only 8-7 behind, but Hendry then let fly with a scoring break of 108, his fourth century of the championship, to re-establish a two-frame lead to sleep on at 9-7.

Hendry had been in the ascendancy for the greater part of the day, and to have ended only level at 8-8 would surely have placed enormous question marks in his mind over his ability to master White, who recovered from 12-4 in

arrests before losing only 18-16 to Davis in the 1984 final.

Hendry, who beat last year's runner-up, John Parrott, 16-11 in their semi-final, was so impressive in the first four frames yesterday that it was impossible not to envisage him winning at a canter.

He compiled breaks of 34 and 66 off long reds to win the opening frame, and when White missed a distinctly chancy cutback into a top pocket in the eighteenth frame, Hendry struck again with an elegant clearance of 104.

White's lunge at a red in frame 20 was punished by Hendry's break of 58, and Hendry then swept in another majestic effort of 81 to take his winning run to five frames for a 13-7 lead. White potted only six balls in that spell and recorded only 19 points, four of those being donated by a Hendry foul.

White, however, refused to bend, and when Hendry missed a red leading 50-5 in frame 21, White ended his barren spell with a clearance of 82.

After also winning frame 22, White led 63-0 in frame 23 with breaks of 31 and 32, but missed a red into a middle pocket, and Hendry, for the first time in the match, won from well behind with a 72 clearance.

SCORES: Semi-finals (England unless stated): J. White vs S. Davis, 16-14. Frame scores (White first): 25-71, 67-13, 75-21, 16-82, 77-13, 53-4, 55-14, 13-108, 11-46, 55-7, 55-70, 25-95, 94-0, 112-0, 52-69, 31-40, 35-102, 72-15, 1-73, 22-81, 34-85, 6-65, 69-1, 35-48, 67-45, 57-1, 53-52, 47-38, 53-19, 13-58, 8 Harvey (Scot) vs J. Parrott, 16-11. Frame scores (Parrott first): 91-32, 82-4, 65-13, 72-55, 46-76, 22-40, 65-25, 51-63, 12-51, 7-16, 35-28, 28-14, 101-18, 18-25, 65-27, 84-33, 77-5, 73-30, 70-4, 81-0, 9-102, 40-33, 9-108, 14-58, 37-42, 25-68, 31-74. Final: Hendry leads White, 14-10. Frame scores (Hendry first): 37-75, 73-13, 45-25, 71-49, 79-14, 60-27, 0-85, 67-25, 64-73, 57-65, 77-48, 99-4, 52-63, 80-0, 1-76, 105-0, 100-0, 104-15, 73-4, 81-0, 50-55, 17-75, 72-63, 0-109.

Potential is still lurking for a further tragedy



David Miller

THE potential for yet another football disaster remains. The emphasis of the Taylor Report on crowd safety, as opposed to public order, has even, ironically, possibly increased the potential danger. That was clearly apparent when over 5,000 Leeds spectators invaded the Elland Road pitch following the 2-1 promotion victory over Leicester City on Saturday.

Chief Superintendent David Clarkson, the senior West Yorkshire officer in charge at Elland Road, said yesterday, in the light of the pitch invasion which he instructed his men not to restrain so as to prevent injury: "Following the legal decisions, the balance between safety and disorder is minute."

"In situations such as that [on Saturday], I no longer have the resources to contain an invasion."

There were 20 mounted police ready had Clarkson considered the mood was ugly — as indeed it might have been — but for Gordon Strachan's memorable winning goal six minutes from the end.

A draw, or victory for Leicester, which was a strong possibility for 20 minutes prior to Strachan's goal, would critically have endangered Leeds' promotion prospects and created outright hostility among a frenzied crowd of 32,000.

With no attempt to absolve himself from responsibility, Clarkson said: "It's up to my judgement, on what the atmosphere is, what decisions I make. I hope to get it right; I might get it wrong. We are in an era of risk-taking. It's a very complex command."

Leeds had given a performance that deserved to take them back to the first division after an interval of eight seasons. Their supporters, however, gave a performance that, during the match, only piled their own anxiety on to that of the team. At the end of the match, they exhibited a lawlessness that should alarm everyone in football.

Following the Taylor Report, Clarkson had objected to faces at Elland Road being reduced and having the inward, overhanging top removed. He was overruled.

There can be no question that, in the present legislative situation, responsibility rests as much with the club and Leeds City Council — which rents the ground to the club and, therefore, has a commercial interest — as with the police. It is deplorable, for instance, that there is no police control room overlooking the pitch.

The Elland Road crowd has long contained a disturbing element. I believe it is imperative that, whether or not Leeds now gain promotion next Saturday, restraining forces with adequate safety gates should be restored so as to take an intolerable weight of responsibility off the police.

The burden on Clarkson and his men, given the emotion and even venom evident in sections of the crowd, is unfair. The burden on Howard Wilkinson and his players is another matter.

They should, of course, be able to win at Bournemouth on Saturday on a day when Newcastle must take three points at Ayresome Park against a Middlesbrough team equally needing victory to avoid relegation.

This victory over Leicester was only Leeds' second in eight matches. The fear that promotion was slipping through their fingers, after leading the table since October, became almost paranoid after McAllister had levelled the score for Leicester just after the hour.

Prior to McAllister's goal, Leeds had seen almost a dozen chances go begging. In front after only 14 minutes, when Strachan, their right back, hammered in a low cross-shot from an opening set up by Chapman and Davidson, they could not score the second goal which would have eased anxiety both on the pitch and the terraces.

The anxiety mounted when, following a clever diagonal dribble by Strachan, a low close-range shot by Varadi hit a post and came out. At the other end, only a marvellous save by Day denied McAllister.

With desperation at fever pitch, Strachan finally let fly a glorious volley from an opening set up by Speed, which eased worries of every kind.

Some of them may return. The pressures that might exist were Leeds going for the League championship — which they won only twice despite almost unmatched quality during Don Revie's era — are discomfiting.

LEEDS (LAWRENCE): M. Day; M. Strachan, J. Varadi, V. Jones (capt), D. Speed, G. Strachan, G. Chapman, R. Chapman, R. Davidson (sub: I. Varadi), G. Speed. LEICESTER (GUTH): M. Hodgson, A. Macaulay, A. Parris, P. Flanagan, S. Walsh, A. Jones, P. Raul, M. North, G. Kelly, G. MacKenzie, T. Wright. Referee: D. Allison.

Jemson ends the Oldham dream

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Nottingham Forest 1
Oldham Athletic 0

IN RETAINING the Littlewoods Cup yesterday, Nottingham Forest left Oldham Athletic holding nothing but the memories of a glorious season which now promises ultimately to be empty. Even a place in the second division play-offs will surely be beyond them. They have become the champions only of fatigue.

Forest never touched the heights of distinction in the sunlight of Wembley, but they did find one inspired idea. Fashioned by Nigel Clough, the central figure in their victory over Luton Town in last season's final, it was completed by Nigel Jemson in the fiftieth minute and proved enough to puncture Oldham's ambitions.

Forest's principal individual was Des Walker, whose flawless play was an accepted feature of his displays for his country, let alone for his club. It was significant, though, that the only rivals for the man of the match award, instigated in recognition of Alan Hardaker, the former secretary of the League, were the other three central defenders.

Chettle was also instrumental in containing Oldham during the first-half and especially when they stirred their tired limbs in a final search for an equalizer. Warhurst and Barrett, arguably the quickest pair in the land, lost little by comparison in protecting their own goalkeeper. Their one lapse, however, was decisive.

Rhodes, who had only recently taken over from Halliwell, was stretched only once — by Parker's explosive shot on the half-hour — before he was beaten. Clough, leading a typical counter-attack, opened the way for Jemson, who prodded in the rebound



Out of luck: Adams, of Oldham, is denied by Sutton, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, and Hodge in the Wembley sunshine yesterday

after the ball had conveniently bounced back off the unfortunate goalkeeper.

Although Oldham's sense of urgency was apparent from the opening minute, when Adams lofted a cross on to the roof of the net, they looked a spent, if willing, force. There was not as much spring in their step, not as much freshness in midfield and, most crucially of all, not as much sharpness in their attack.

Marshall, a central defender who has been transformed into a menacing and rumbustious centre forward, was missing through injury. Bunn, who had claimed six goals himself against Scarborough in the third round of the competition, was unable to act as an adequate replacement as Ritchie's assistant in the front line.

Palmer, the club's longest servant, came on to raise Oldham's spirits and he almost claimed the goal which might have lifted them over their physical and emotional exhaustion. Midway through the second half, his header was somehow cleared away by Sutton, another goalkeeper unaccustomed to a place in the first team.

Earlier, he had been extended by Ritchie, who had scored in every previous round and threatened to maintain his sequence with a spectacular distant drive. But Oldham could not otherwise summon the energy for a heavy or an accurate knockout punch and, at the end, they slumped to the floor.

Joe Royle, their manager, picked them up and must

continue to do so. The final was the first of four fixtures in a week, a programme so congested that, even if they were in a favourable position in the table, they could scarcely expect to dismiss the inevitable disappointment and reinforce their drive for promotion.

That would be a pity, not only for them, they have confirmed, beyond dispute, that they would be worthy competitors in the first division. The plastic surface at Boundary Park cannot detract from their mighty achievements, which appear all to have been in vain.

Their 61st game already seemed one too many, and the audience, whose behaviour inside the stadium was exemplary, rose to them in sympathy.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S. Sutton, S. Lowe, S. Pearce, D. Walker, S. Chettle, S. Hodge, G. Crosby, G. Parker, N. Clough, N. Jemson, F. Carr. OLDHAM ATHLETIC: A. Rhodes, D. Bunn, A. Barlow, N. Henry, E. Barrett, P. Warhurst, N. Adams, A. Ritchie, F. Bunn (sub: R. Palmer), M. Halliwell, R. Holden. Referee: J. Martin.

Oldham attract the accolades

By Dennis Siggy

BOTH Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, and Ronnie Fenton, his assistant, paid tribute to defeated Oldham Athletic after the Littlewoods Cup final.

Clough said: "I could not believe how well Oldham played, but I warned everyone beforehand." Fenton added: "It is a pity there was a loser. We feel a lot of sympathy that they could finish a momentous season with nothing."

Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, whose side now face four second-division matches in seven days in a bid to reach a promotion play-off position, said: "We felt we can play better, but we did not let anyone down and we have not disgraced ourselves. Forest have a little more experience and strength. We have had a fantastic season, playing 61 games so far, and unfortunately the fairy-tale did not come true today."

Of Jemson, the goal scorer, Fenton said: "The gaffer just said we should have had one ball for him and one for the rest of the team. He is inclined to be a bit greedy."

Forest watched Jemson playing against Mansfield Town for Preston North End and signed him after a recommendation from Clough's brother, who had seen the match, and John McGrath, the former Preston manager.

Fear stalks the streets in a 10-minute walk

By Louise Taylor

NEWCASTLE United v West Ham United on Saturday was a gripping match (Louise Taylor writes). But the abiding memory will be of the fear in the streets and the bewilderment on the face of a youth with blood gushing from his mouth.

Leaving the ground at about 5.30pm, I was aware of groups of Newcastle supporters loitering in the streets adjacent to St James's Park, presumably waiting for their West Ham counterparts to be released from the Leazes End and sent on their way to the station, 10 minutes walk away. There was a police helicopter overhead and police on the ground.

Suddenly, hundreds of

Newcastle supporters were charging down the street, whooping their war cries, in pursuit of their London rivals. I dived into a shop doorway to escape the rampage.

It was a frightening episode but it seems I was no more than unlucky enough to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Inspector Charles Hill of Newcastle police said yesterday: "There were only 16 arrests for such a big match; this was not an excessive amount of disorder. You were probably unfortunate to walk to the station at the same time as the West Ham supporters."

Match report, page 35

YOUR VERY OWN MOTORWAY...

PLUS THREE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSES

West Lancs with its towns of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale connects nationwide via its own M58 motorway linked to M6 and M62. Only the shortest drive from Royal Birkdale, Royal Lytham St Anne's and Royal Liverpool. Just 30 minutes from the UK's second largest population concentration. West Lancs greenfield sites offer pastures new to industry and commerce.

I would like to know more. To: Fred McKeaghan
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THE WEST LANCs PROJECT

SPORT IN BRIEF

Rotterdam victory

A BRITISH squad eight won the Rotterdam international boat race and a £5,000 prize. In a field of 10 national crews, Britain led from the start of the 2,500-metre course and held off an East German crew that had won in Italy the previous Saturday.

RESULTS: 1, Britain, 7:05.2; 2, East Germany, 7:08.3; Czechoslovakia, 7:07.4; Spain, 7:09.5; Soviet Union, 7:10.6; Netherlands, 7:14.7; Italy, 7:18.8; Cuba, 7:28.9; Bulgaria, 7:32.

Jaguar man

The Silk Cut Jaguar team has signed Spain's leading racing driver, Luis Perez-Sala, for the Le Mans 24-hour race on July 16. He was sixth in a Minardi in last year's British Formula One Grand Prix.

England last

England's senior women's volleyball team finished fourth and last in the West European championships, the Spring Cup, in Finland at the weekend. Switzerland beat them for thirteenth place, 15-7, 12-15, 12-15, 10-15.



Conlrad: the winner

Belles' Cup

Doncaster Belles won the 20th women's FA Cup final of modern times by defeating Friends of Fulham 1-0 at the Baseball Ground, Derby. Gillian Coulard was the scorer.

Kiwis' No

Wellington (AFP) — The New Zealand Cricket Council has rejected the itinerary proposed by Pakistan for the Kiwi's visit in October and November. A minimum of two warm-up matches is demanded.

Sharp shots

Britain's two top women pistol shooters made their selection for the world championships in Moscow later this year virtually certain when they both broke British records, Carol Page scoring 581 during trials on Saturday morning and Margaret Thomas 583 in the afternoon.

Boxers clear

Spencer McCracken and Lee Page, two boxers suspended since an alleged involvement in crowd trouble during the ABA quarter-finals in Birmingham last month, have had the punishment lifted.

Rugby blow

Cape Town (AFP) — Plans by the French rugby federation president, Albert Ferrasse, to bring South Africa back into the international arena founded when the anti-apartheid South African Rugby Union rejected an offer to take part in an under-20 XV tour of France. Tours were not the issue but unification of rugby on non-racial lines, it said.

Hearns given runaround

From Srikanar Sen, Boxing Correspondent, Atlantic City

Thomas Hearns won 11 out of 12 rounds to beat Michael Olajide, of Canada, and retain his World Boxing Organisation super middleweight title, but, typically, the stroll ended on wobbly legs at the Taj Mahal Hotel here on Saturday night.

The crowd of 5,420 that had booed the delaying tactics of Olajide for eight rounds watched in nervous silence as the ageing champion ran out of breath when Olajide at last decided to make a fight of it.

It was only through judicious holding in the ninth, tenth and eleventh rounds and dancing and boxing from a distance in the twelfth, that Hearns managed to finish on his feet.

In the first eight rounds, Hearns was barely able to land more than a dozen worthwhile blows as Olajide ran backwards round the ring, his gloves shielding his face, his elbows his body. The best punch was a low one in the fourth that had Hearns doing knee bends and which cost Olajide a point.

Hearns tried every trick to cut off the ring but the slippery

Canadian was too quick on his feet. Hearns even dropped his hands, wound up bolos, stuck his chin out, and mocked Olajide in the hope of bringing him in but the challenger refused to get off his bike.

"We knew Hearns was a bomber," Olajide said, "so the fight plan was to stay out of his path for seven rounds and then turn it up a bit." But it was only in the ninth, after Hearns had dropped him, that Olajide woke up and decided to give the punters some value for their money.

As Olajide moved around the ring in the ninth, Hearns feinted with the left. Olajide slipped the punch but in so doing ran into a perfect right hand that put him down on the spot. He took a count of eight and covered up. Hearns belaboured him but only succeeded in punching himself out.

Now it was Olajide's turn to do the chasing. A couple of right hands had the champion holding and hugging on the ropes. For the next three rounds it was only Hearns'.

long extended left hand that prevented his opponent from swarming all over him.

Hearns was not happy with his performance. "Tonight I was not Thomas Hearns," he said. "When Thomas Hearns hurts his man he takes him out of there. I've got to give Olajide credit for taking me into the later rounds. I couldn't get him in a corner and keep him there."

"I started getting distracted along the way there. I looked out of the ring and saw somebody there. I started to think 'Ray, please, just one more time'."

Ray Leonard drew with Hearns' last year but there being no response from him at ringside on Saturday, Hearns may decide to move up a weight to try to become the first man to win six world titles.

Yuh Myung Woo, of South Korea, retained his World Boxing Association light-flyweight title on a split decision over Leo Gonzalez, of Venezuela, in Seoul yesterday.

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